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COMMUNIQUÉ

SPRING 2001

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Inside:

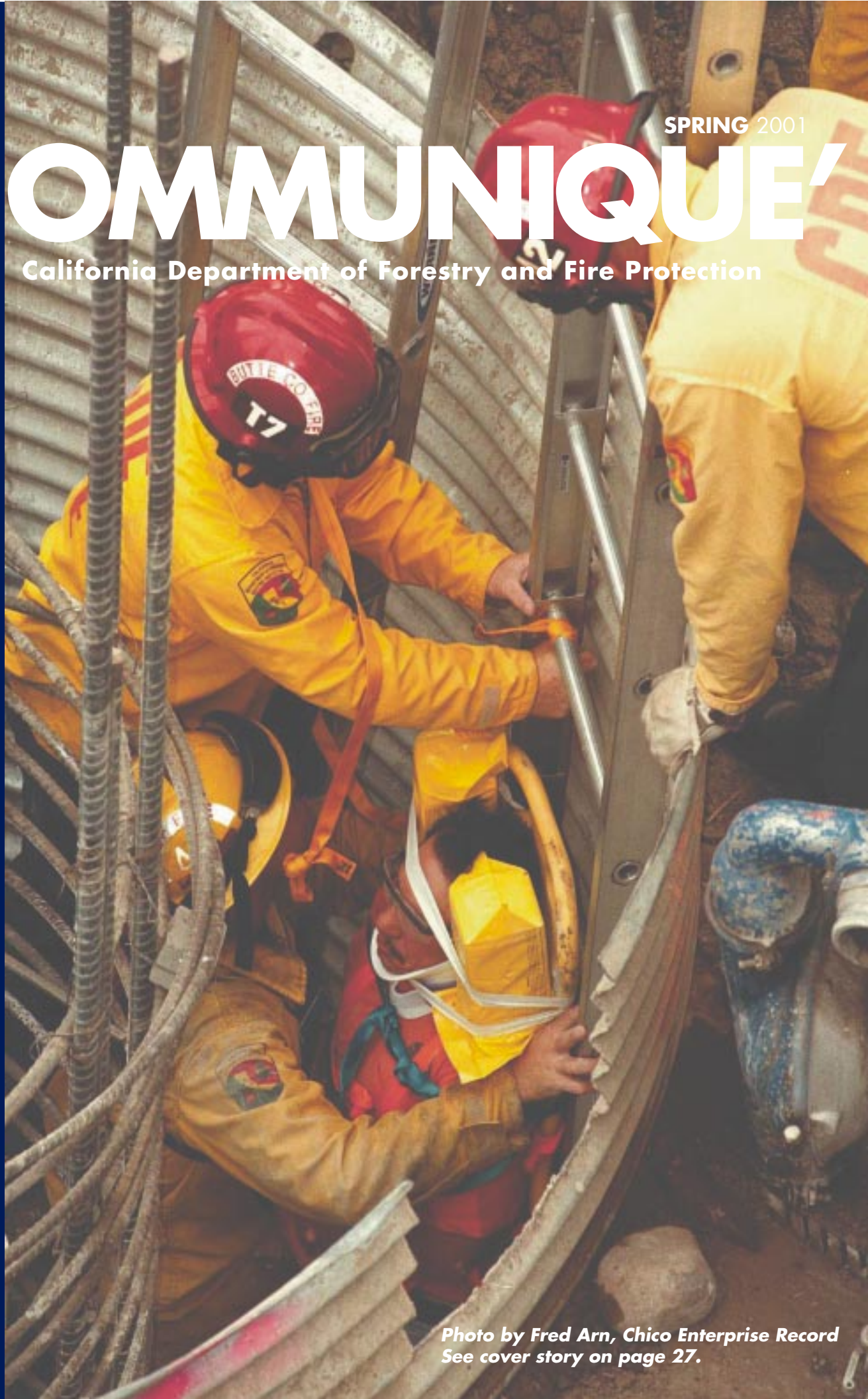


Photo by Fred Arn, Chico Enterprise Record
See cover story on page 27.

From the Director
Another "Season" Is Upon Us

It's hard to believe that the California fire season is almost here once again. While CDF handled a relatively quiet season in the state last year, the rest of the West was hit hard. What will this season bring? If we had a crystal ball that could provide that answer wouldn't your job be easier?

The only thing we can ever say with certainty is that there will be a fire season – California's weather, topography, vegetation, and ever-growing population guarantee that fact. While the Palmer Drought Severity Index shows most of California at near normal conditions, the Eastern side of the state is abnormally dry.

Remember fire season for CDF means responding to an average of 6,700 wildfires just within the department's jurisdiction. This does not include requests for assistance from federal and local agencies, or from other states. Nor does it include the nearly 273,000 non-wildland fire incidents you respond to each year. Each of these incidents posses its own unique dangers to those of you who respond, so safety needs to be exercised at all times.

Safety and cutting edge technology are always priorities for this department. In 2000, CDF achieved a number of accomplishments in the form of equipment upgrades and policy that will benefit our forces for fire seasons to come.

- **Last year we were able to bring on board eight new 1,200 gallon S-2T airtankers. This year we will add two more to bring our S-2T total to 10 for the 2001 fire season, complementing our 13 800-gallon S-2A airtankers.**

- **During last season all of our helicopters were upgraded with new rotor masts following an Federal Aviation Administration announcement of serious problems with the masts on all Huey UH-1 copters across the country.**

- **During 2000, policy was set that requires all new inmate Crew Carrying Vehicles (CCVs) to be outfitted with air conditioning in both the driver compartment and crew area. With the continuing increase in population, traffic and number of incidents, it has become more important to get our fire crews to the scene as quickly and safely as possible. Therefore, CCV's will begin to be equipped as code three vehicles.**

- **Last year we also established policy requiring all new fire engines to be air- conditioned. This will cut crew fatigue on long responses and allow us to use the engines to rest and rehabilitate our hard working engine crews.**

- **In 2000 we replaced 18 of our older dozers with newer refurbished high-track dozers at a savings of several million dollars. All CDF fire dozers now have enclosed, air-conditioned cabs for safety. We were also able to purchase several new dozer transports.**

- **Last year the specifications were completed for CDF's new Model 25 engine, a wildland urban interface engine capable of handling CDFs "full -service" mission. The pilot model is currently being evaluated in the Sierra-South Region.**

*See **DIRECTOR**, page 3*

DIRECTOR: from page 2

As we head into the 2001 season we are continuing implementation of the "total forces" concept which means you will get the opportunity to work with many different employees that fall within many different job classifications. To meet our mission we must all participate as a team. Your usual professionalism in accepting and respecting each other will be even more important as we strive to make the "team" even better.

This courtesy should also extend to the U.S. Forest Service, which is hiring many new people in light of last summer's disastrous fires throughout the West. Newcomers will need assistance in gaining the experience to do their jobs efficiently and safely.

2000 Fire Season Facts

- **All CDF units were "on" fire season by June 12.**
- **All CDF units were "off" fire season by November 20.**
- **CDF responded to 5,177 wildland fires.**
- **Those fires burned 72,718 acres**
- **Those fires destroyed 130 structures.**
- **The dollar damage done by those fires was more than $29 million.**
- **The cost to fight the fires of the 2000 season is estimated at $90 million.**
- **The Pachenga Fire in the Riverside Unit in late July was the largest CDF fire by acreage burned at 11,900**
- **The Concow Fire in the Butte Unit in September caused the largest structure loss of the season at 16 destroyed.**
- **Equipment-use was the number one cause of the wildland fires.**

ALL STATISTICS FOR CDF JURISDICTION ONLY

Four of our firefighters were burned last year while battling the Pechanga Fire in the Riverside Unit. Thankfully, today all four are doing well and are ready for the 2001 season. The job you do is incredibly dangerous. All of us here in Sacramento recognize that fact. I personally wish each and every one of you a safe fire season, whether you are called on to battle blazes in California or asked to assist our neighboring states.

Andrea E. Tuttle

CALIFORNIA'S ENERGY CHALLENGE

Flex your POWER
www.flexyourpower.ca.gov

"Our first priority must be providing reliable, reasonably priced energy to power our homes and businesses. Yes, we have a power shortage, but we are far from powerless. By reducing our electricity demand by even a small amount, we can reduce the price, avoid shortages and lower energy bills. And our long range goal must be greater energy production within our borders."

Governor Gray Davis

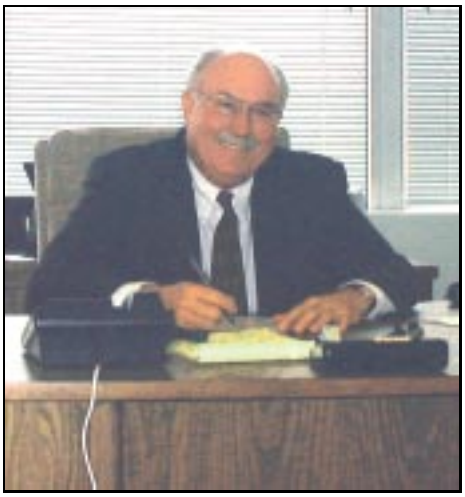
"Let's all pull together to conserve power, and, therefore, California's precious energy-producing natural resources. Saving energy is everyone's job."

CDF Director Andrea Tuttle

Changing faces

State Fire Marshal
John Tennant

by Alisha Herring, secretary, Public Affairs Office



Last November, Governor Gray Davis appointed John Tennant as the California State Fire Marshal. Chief Tennant brings 28 years of experience from both fire prevention and fire suppression to the position. He has spent his entire working life in public service in the pursuit of equity as well as public safety. Tennant is sought after for his experience and training. He has served as a guest lecturer at the University of Southern California Masters Program for Public Administration. He has spoken at events sponsored by the League of California Cities, the California State Association of Counties, and the Western Fire Chiefs Association.

In 1989, while he was pursuing a course of study in political science at the University of Southern California, he served as an administrative assistant to State Senator Cecil Greene. In that capacity he recommended and saw SB 1830 signed into law allowing local fire jurisdictions to develop more stringent building codes based on local needs. His efforts within the city of Pasadena included a retroactive sprinkler ordinance for high-rise buildings to help ensure the safety of occupants and responding firefighters.

Prior to accepting the SFM appointment, Tennant was a fire captain in charge of an engine house with the city of Pasadena Fire Department. He also served as union president for Pasadena Firefighters, and vice president of California Professional Firefighters. Chief Tennant defines his role of State Fire Marshal as providing safety where people live, work, and congregate. This includes the development and modification of fire and building codes, and responsibility for the inspection of over 33,000 state-owned or occupied buildings. The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) functions as an arm of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) following a 1995 merger of the two departments. The OSFM is responsible for several major program elements including code and law enforcement, fire engineering, California Fire Incident Reporting System and the Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Program. The pipeline program regulates major pipelines that transport crude oil from production fields to the refining centers. The responsibility includes the accurate mapping of all these pipelines.

The Fire Engineering Services Division of the OSFM includes five programs. The Licensing/Certification Program encompasses automatic fire extinguisher systems, building materials listing, fireworks/explosives, flame retardant chemicals and fabrics, laboratory accreditation, portable fire extinguishers, and vapor recovery. The Fire Engineering Division also includes the Fire Safe Land Use Planning Program, which strives to reduce uncontrolled wildfires related to the unlawful or improper use of mechanical, electrical, chemical and industrial engineering equipment and techniques.

As State Fire Marshal, Chief Tennant is the chair of the State Board of Fire Services. The board provides a state-level forum for addressing fire protection and prevention issues of statewide concern. In addition, he works closely with the CDF State Fire Training Program to provide specialized training and certification, and to institute training courses for fire service personnel.

"Some of the issues we are facing in 2001 include budget, code enforcement, and matching the responsibility with the appropriate resource", says Chief Tennant. He looks forward to addressing these issues and is grateful to the staff that has kept the operation going for the two years his position was vacant. He particularly credits Chief Deputy Director Woody Allshouse and Assistant State Fire Marshal Nancy Wolfe, for successfully managing OSFM responsibilities during the interim.

In the last few months Chief Tennant has immersed himself in study. He has spent much of his time learning the intricacies involved in the operation of state government, attending budget meetings, staff meetings, and doing a lot of reading. "My goal here is to be successful not famous, to establish relationships of a positive nature and foster partnerships with industry so that, to the greatest extent possible, regulations are developed through a consensus."

Assistant State Fire Marshal
Nancy Wolfe

by Carlos Garcia, student assistant, Public Affairs and Public Education Offices

In November 2000, Governor Gray Davis appointed Nancy Wolfe as Assistant State Fire Marshal. With 27 years of experience in the fire service - 21 with the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) - it is a position for which she is well prepared.

After majoring in criminology at CSU Fresno, Chief Wolfe was hired as a fire inspector by the Visalia Fire Department. However, after only a few years there, she was recruited by the OSFM to become a deputy state fire marshal (DSFM). Her first assignment was as a field DSFM in code enforcement, responsible for Fresno, Kern, Kings and Tulare counties.

In 1984,Wolfe was promoted to supervising deputy and given the responsibility of overseeing OSFM field operations for all counties north of Sacramento. In 1986, she was assigned to be departmental staff chief under then Assistant State Fire Marshal Don Truhett.

Only a year later, Chief Wolfe was promoted to the position of division chief and assigned as chief of the northern region which covered 31 of the 58 counties in California. Her responsibilities included the management of all code enforcement programs in that region and supervision of a staff of 29 deputies. Since that initial management assignment, Wolfe has also managed the State Fire Training and Pipeline Safety Divisions. Following the retirement of State Fire Marshal Ronny Coleman, she was promoted to the position of Chief of Fire Prevention. At the same time Chief Deputy Director Woody Allshouse asked her to also serve as Acting Assistant State Fire Marshal.

Chief Wolfe is still doing "double-duty" by covering both positions until a new Chief of Fire Prevention can be selected.

As Assistant State Fire Marshal, she says, "In a nutshell, my job is to oversee the operations of all OSFM statutory responsibilities. Handling this has been relatively easy because I have an absolutely wonderful staff of division chiefs, supervisors, deputies and support staff that works as a marvelous team. They are the ones who make me look good!"

Asked what has been the most demanding aspect of her position so far, Chief Wolfe said, "No day is ever dull. There is always something happening that needs immediate attention. This is a demanding job but one that gives me a tremendous amount of enjoyment and fulfillment."

During her tenure with the OSFM, Wolfe has seen a great number of changes that have affected the organization. "When I joined the department we were concerned with how we were going to cover the workload with the limited number of deputies on staff and the insufficient amount of General Fund resources available. I guess the situation is really not much different now. However, the merger of CDF and the OSFM in 1995 has been challenging on many fronts." she said. "We are still working on the latter phases of that consolidation as well as trying to finalize any loose ends."

According to Chief Wolfe, another change to OSFM is that "we have a larger and more diversified responsibility than we ever had before. For example, we didn't regulate pipelines when I started with the OSFM, but now there are more than 8,000 miles of hazardous liquid pipelines regulated by our pipeline engineering staff. The Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) and related HAZMAT programs are another responsibility for which we now have an important role. We also now have a full time deputy who coordinates with local government to promote and assure fire and life safety involving special effects and pyrotechnics in the movie and television industry. The State Fire Marshal is also a member of the California Film Commission. The varied knowledge and expertise available within the State Fire Marshal's staff is just phenomenal."

Another great change that Chief Wolfe pointed out is the increase in the population of California from less than 24 million in 1980 to almost 34 million in the year 2000. "We at the OSFM strive to meet the growing responsibilities that come as a result of the increased population. State government is growing at an unprecedented rate. There are billions of dollars worth of new state construction projects on the drawing board for the next few years. Each one of these projects is reviewed by OSFM plan review specialists for compliance with fire and life safety

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***WOLFE**: from page 5*

standards. Also, each of these projects is inspected throughout construction to assure code compliance. When completed, these buildings will join the more than 30,000 existing facilities that are under OSFM statutory jurisdiction. It's a challenge for our staff to keep up with all of this growth."

Changes are something that Chief Wolfe and the OSFM are looking forward to at the dawn of a new century. Specifically, she is excited about improvements that will make the work of the OSFM faster and more efficient. She said, "We have already begun the process of incorporating the latest technology into our work. Online resources such as forms and databases will allow us to lessen the time that it takes to process inspections. We are also looking forward to utilizing web-based methods of serving our stakeholders. Within the next year, I envision that fire departments will be able to check the status of a pyrotechnician's license or OSFM-approved fire alarm component's listing or identifying the location of a hazardous liquid pipeline within their city just by using the OSFM section of the CDF web site."

While she has spent her career with the OSFM, hard work and dedication to public service is something that runs in the Wolfe household. Not only is she a state employee, but Kirk, her husband of more than 25 years, works in the Business Services Unit at the Office of the State Controller. In addition to enjoying time with close friends and family, Chief Wolfe says that she and her husband are the proud parents of Biff, a cocker spaniel "who is my very spoiled couch-potato dog. I'm afraid that he is the head of our household."

Looking to the future Chief Wolfe says, "I have enjoyed my work with the OSFM and am very much looking forward to working in conjunction with State Fire Marshal John Tennant in the coming years."

South Area Chief **Bob Martines**

Sierra Area Chief Robert Martines replaced retiring Mike Harris as South Area Chief last July. Bob spent most of his 36 years in Southern California except for the last two years, which he spent in Fresno. He has worked in the San Bernardino and Riverside units, and Sierra-South Region Headquarters three separate times. Bob started his career as a seasonal firefighter working up through the ranks to his current classification. Bob has distinguished himself throughout his career receiving a Sustained Superior Accomplishment Award, Supervisory Superior Performance Award, and the department's highest honor the Lewis A. Moran Award in 1995. Bob resides with his wife LoVae in Redlands, California.

APPLIANCES

Always keep in mind that appliances have two price tags. One tag is the purchase price on the equipment when you pick it out at the store. The other price is the operating cost paid out month after month, year after year, in the form of your electricity bill.

Refrigerators and freezers consume about a sixth of all electricity in a typical American home - using more electricity than any other single household appliance.

Mike Harris Says Farewell

On July 3, 2000 South Area Chief Mike Harris retired from CDF after 36 years of service. Mike started his career in 1964 as a volunteer fire fighter at the North Palm Springs Fire Station, Riverside County. In April 1966 he was selected by CDF as a seasonal forest fire truck driver in the Riverside Unit becoming a permanent forest fire truck driver in May 1967. In July 1970 he was appointed fire captain, also in Riverside Unit. Then in April 1973 he promoted to fire prevention officer I in the San Bernardino Unit. He was then selected for a forestry field trainee assignment at the then Region VI Headquarters in Riverside. In July 1974 he promoted to state forest ranger I in the San Benito-Monterey Unit. His next promotion came in February 1978 to state forest ranger II at Region VI Headquarters in Riverside. In this assignment he served in two program areas (fire prevention and fire control) for eight years. In March

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1992 he promoted to the position of Riverside Unit Chief and Riverside County Fire Chief. His last promotion was to a career executive assignment (CEA) position in charge of the South Area of our state and Sierra-South Region Operations Area Chief at region headquarters in Riverside.

Throughout his career, CDF managers selected Mike to participate in very important committees and working groups, and he was individually sought out to provide input that changed CDF forever. He was known as an innovator, willing to tackle the toughest jobs.

Some of his contributions included serving as a member of the Firescope Task Force during the development and implementation of the Incident Command System and the Multi-Agency Coordination System. He served on both state and national level emergency management teams and held a national qualification as an area command incident commander.

Mike and his wife Lindsey intend to literally sail off into the sunset on a 50-foot sail boat with their first stop in Mexico. Second stop Tahiti. We all wish Mike and Lindsey a happy retirement sailing the seven seas.

Nevada-Yuba-Placer
Tony Clarabut

On March 1, 2001, CDF Director Tuttle announced the appointment of Tony Clarabut to the position of Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit Chief.

Chief Clarabut brings 30 years of experience with him to the position. He transferred to Nevada County in 1983 as the Higgins Corner Battalion Chief and was promoted to operations division chief for Nevada and Yuba counties in 1996. Chief Clarabut has an extensive background in fire protection and is familiar with the local issues. The experience and depth he brings to the position will ensure Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit continues its excellent performance.

Chief Clarabut's new role includes oversight of all of CDF's wildland and contractual fire protection and resource management programs and the application of the California Fire Plan in Nevada, Yuba, Sutter and Sierra counties, including 26 fire stations.

Chief Clarabut is a member of the Nevada City Rotary and was recently appointed as a member of the Board of Directors of the Bear River Recreation and Parks District. He lives in south Nevada County with his wife Susan and their son Alex, a student at Bear River High School. Their daughter Allison attends Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo.

Tulare
Dave Hillman

by Becki Redwine,
fire prevention specialist II,
Tulare Unit

Dave Hillman was appointed by Director Tuttle as the Tulare Unit Chief last July. Chief Hillman officially began his career with CDF in the summer of 1968 in the Tulare Unit, Visalia headquarters, as a seasonal firefighter. Between seasons, he volunteered at our own Station #25, (Tulare Station) and was a "sleeper" at Visalia City Fire Department. He went on to be an engineer in Tulare and Madera units and then made captain right here in Tulare.

The prevention field has been his focus for many years. For 17 years, at various levels of fire prevention officer, he served in the Riverside Unit, the CDF Fire Academy, Fresno-Kings Unit and Fresno Region Office. In 1997 he moved on to serve as an assistant chief in Fresno-Kings, and finally arrived "back home" in Tulare on July 17, 2000 as unit chief.

Dave's wife, Karen is a registered nurse with the Fresno Unified School District and a licensed paralegal. They have two children; a daughter, age 23 (a registered veterinary technician) and a son, age 20 (another firefighter for CDF!).

The Hillmans currently live in Clovis with their Beagle named "Dog" (no lie!), however, they will be looking to move into the Tulare County area within the next year or so. Welcome Home Chief !

Humboldt-Del Norte
Dick Goings

by Bill Robertson,
fire prevention specialist I, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit

CDF Director Andrea Tuttle appointed Kenneth "Dick" Goings as the Humboldt-Del Norte Unit Chief effective August 7, 2000. Chief Goings brings with him over 40 years of experience, having begun his career with CDF in 1952 as a firefighter with the Butte Unit.

After graduation from UC Berkeley with a degree in forest management in 1963, Chief Goings career with the department included a long list of promotional assignments. Chief Goings held positions as emergency command center chief and battalion chief in the Lake-Napa Unit; fire prevention officer II and III in Butte and in Sacramento; area forester in Amador-El Dorado and Alpine counties; administrative, and operations officer in the Amador-El Dorado Unit; fire prevention program manager; conservation camp program manager, and fire control officer in CDF's Santa Rosa Region Office; Siskiyou Unit Chief, and assistant region chief in charge of operations and resource management in Redding.

Chief Goings has several career achievments he is proud of including; his creation of the Children Playing With Fire Team Teaching Program; initiation of the Amador Plan with Amador Board of Supervisors Chairperson Glenn Smith; and his successful 10 year effort to increase the state arson reward from $500 to $5,000 through legislation sponsored by Assemblymember Sebastiani following the Lake-Napa Unit Atlas Peak Fire in 1981.

Chief Goings served in the U.S. Air Force and is a Korean War veteran.

The Humboldt-Del Norte Unit is responsible for the resource protection of two million acres of land located on the California North Coast. The unit extends 120 miles from the Oregon border to the Mendocino County line. Major watersheds in the unit include portions of the Smith, Klammath, Mad, Trinity, Van Duzan, Mattole and Eel rivers.

Approximately 1.3 million acres of the unit are identified as timber production zone (TPZ).

The Resource Management Program has a staff of 22 foresters, one biologist, one hydrologist, and archaeologist and four staff assistants. The unit resource managers are responsible for reviewing on average 300-350 timber harvesting plans annually and as many as a 1,000 on occasion.

The Humboldt-Del Norte Unit has 11 fire stations, two of which provide fire protection year-round under Amador contracts.

The unit also has three conservation camps, two fire lookouts, an air attack base, a helitack base and a 24-hour emergency command center.

Training and Education
Dave Ebert

by Alisha Herring,
secretary, Public Affairs Office

CDF Director Andrea Tuttle appointed Dave Ebert to the position of Training and Education Chief last June. In November of 2000 the CDF Academy and the Office of the State Fire Marshal Training Services Program were placed under the CDF Fire Protection Program. "In the past, fire protection supervised the training aspect of the department and by bringing it back under fire protection, it gives us the opportunity to maximize the potential and growth of the training unit," said Chief Ebert. "It also allows us to distribute the workload back out into the field were it belongs."

Although training has been moved back under fire protection, Dave does say, "there is a definite need to work with the Office of the State Fire Marshal in specialized training and certification, and to develop a delivery mechanism that will ensure the success of the fire service training."

His career with CDF began in 1975, after 12 years in local government public safety. Starting as a fire captain in the Orange (County) Unit, he then promoted to fire crew supervisor over a camp crew, and again to battalion chief at the CDF Academy. He transferred from Ione in 1990 to the Tehama-Glenn Unit as a battalion chief and promoted to division chief in charge of administration, and later operations. In 1997 he promoted to North Ops. as deputy chief, operations, and was appointed Humboldt-Del Norte Unit Chief in 1998.

In his new position, Chief Ebert wants to assure that the delivery of training provided by the department be up-to-date and according to law. "I have always been committed to training, and I would like to see the California Fire Service continue to

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be on the cutting edge of training and education. I expect our department to develop that cutting edge", said Chief Ebert. "The level of training CDF provides carries throughout the fire service."

With "Changing Face" becoming more apparent, some of the challenges that face the department in the way of training this year include creating enough courses to fill the department's needs and deciding which courses will have to be cut.

There is a huge demand on the CDF to replace personnel in numerous positions that have become vacant. "We are working on ways to replace the replacements", says Dave.

Chief Ebert has also taken on the task of promoting the newly formed CDF University. The new Distance Learning Program will allow classroom curriculum to be accessed from outside of the classroom, allowing a hands-on type training more frequently available through the CDF Academy. Chief Ebert plans to support the staff under him in order to complete his goals and the department's mission.

Public Education Chief
Bryan Zollner

by Leah Sandberg, office technician, Lassen-Modoc Unit

It's no wonder Bryan Zoller entered a career in the fire service. He has a family history rich in firefighting knowledge and experience. Bryan's father was a fire chief for the city of Oroville and his great grandfather was a Detroit City fireman. Bryan himself is well underway continuing that history, with a fire service career that spans 21 years. He started his fire career in 1980 as a "sleeper firefighter" in Butte Unit where he attended Butte Community College and majored in Fire Science. In 1981 Butte Unit hired Bryan as a seasonal firefighter. In 1982 Bryan took a job with Oroville Fire Department as a fire protection operator. CDF drew him back however, and in 1983 he was promoted to limited term firefighter II in the Fresno-Kings Unit at Mid Valley Station #7. He remained there until 1985 when he returned to Butte Unit as an LT fire apparatus engineer in the Chico Battalion. After his limited term assignment was completed, he went to work for Yuba City Fire Department as a firefighter.

Bryan returned to the CDF family in 1986 when he was hired as a permanent firefighter II in Santa Clara Unit. He was almost immediately promoted to fire apparatus engineer and went to work at the Ramona Station in the San Diego Unit. Three years later Bryan was promoted again to fire captain B at Bautista Conservation Camp in the Riverside Unit. In 1990 he transferred to Alder Conservation Camp in Humboldt-Del Norte. In 1991 he decided to return to station life and transferred to Home Garden Station #13 in the Riverside Unit. Three years passed and he was promoted to battalion chief in the contract city of Moreno Valley in Riverside and in 1998 he transferred to the Corona Battalion. In 2000, Bryan worked a seven-month assignment covering the vacant division chief position at Norco Conservation Camp. On March 1, 2001 Bryan accepted a promotion to deputy chief of the Public Education Office in Sacramento.

Bryan has a great love for the people out in the field, and looks forward to building upon that relationship with his new position. "Our job is to support the field in their educational efforts with the public by giving them the best information and modern delivery systems possible. I want to modernize our current educational programs to reflect CDF's total mission and to educate all citizens of California about what CDF is and what we provide. It is my goal to continue the positive influence of state fire safe councils and the impact they have at the local level." Bryan is sure to accomplish his goals with the excellent team he has inherited. He is excited about his new position and looks forward to making a difference.

Bryan is an avid waterfowl hunter, and in his words "a poor golfer". His wife Pam is chief resident at Mercy Medical Center in Redding, and he has a son Ty who is 13 and a daughter Alexia who is 20 and in the Army Airborne. Bryan is also the operations section chief on CDF Incident Command Team #8, a position he is proud to hold.

Asst. Deputy Director Resource Improvement and Protection

Mark Stanley

by Leah Sandberg, office technician, Lassen-Modoc Unit

"I feel everybody within the department has something to offer toward accomplishing the mission of CDF. Whether fire or resource management – everyone has a role to play. There is no problem we can't tackle."

This is the philosophy of Mark Stanley, appointed in February 2000 as Assistant Deputy Director of Resource Improvement and Protection. Mark certainly has a lot to offer the department, with 27 years of experience.

Mark started with CDF in 1973 as a graduate trainee in Monterey. In 1974 he promoted to junior forester/ fire captain in San Luis Obispo and San Mateo-Santa Cruz. In January 1975 he moved to Jackson State Forest and was promoted to forester I in July of that year.

In 1977 he promoted to Sacramento as a forester II within the CDF Utilization Program. He filled a newly created position administering the "Falling and Bucking" Program. This program was funded in part by the U.S. Forest Service and was responsible for providing log quality control assistance to the timber industry. The program grew to include sawmills and hardwood furniture plants. Mark was involved in conducting scores of studies in California on techniques to improve log recovery through lumber mills. He served on several national committees concerned with utilization and woods quality control.

In 1982, still administering the program, he took up residence in the Amador-El Dorado Unit. He took on additional responsibilities including law enforcement, fire control and arson investigations in the unit. With the advent of computers in CDF, he became the network manager for the unit until the year 2000.

In 1990 Mark was loaned to the U.S. Forest Service for two years as their national sawmill specialist. He traveled all over the country to teach national and state specialists techniques in sawmill quality control.

In 1991 he was appointed to represent the Resources Agency on the Governor's Rural Competitiveness Task Force. The task force developed ways to help rural communities survive and prosper. Mark worked with county supervisors and citizens to determine their needs and keep their communities thriving. This was the birthplace of the Rural Development Council that is still in place today.

After 17 years, funding was cut for the Utilization Program and Mark was reassigned. "I was involved in the birthing and burying of a program that was and still is near and dear to my heart."

In 1993, Mark was loaned to the Resources Agency for two months and assigned to the Northwest Forest Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl. This two-month assignment lasted six years, during which time he worked on the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative (Community Economic Revitalization Team) providing economic assistance to nine northern counties impacted by the Northwest Forest Plan. Mark still chairs that committee today. While doing this, he also represented the governor as the only California state representative on the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee that provided advice on resource management activities on federal lands in Oregon, Washington and California impacted by the Northern Spotted Owl.

In 1994 he coordinated the rewrite of the Forest Practice Computer Program and was the lead person involved in developing the program currently in use. His experience and love of computers gained him an appointment to CDF's Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC) as a representative of resource management.

In 1995 he worked with the Resources Agency to develop the Tahoe Regreen Project, working with 33 member agencies to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire and improve forest health by removing dead and dying trees in the Tahoe Basin. He is still actively involved with that project.

In 1997 Mark returned to the Amador-El Dorado Unit as pre-fire division chief responsible for the law enforcement, vegetation management and pre-fire engineering programs while still involved in agency work.

On February 14, 2000, Mark was assigned as Assistant Deputy Director for Resource Improvement and Protection. He oversees the forestry assistance, vegetation management, state forests, forest legacy, urban

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forestry, nurseries, and pest management programs.

One issue he is currently involved in is "Sudden Oak Death". From the coast of Monterey to Sonoma, oak trees are dying. Mark has been appointed as a board member to the Oak Mortality Task Force. One thing that stands out about Mark is his drive and commitment to his job.

What drives him? "Making a difference. Leaving a program or situation better than I found it so anyone that follows doesn't have to deal with the same problems," said Mark. "And applying logic and common sense to the situation whenever possible."

Mark's objectives are simple, yet powerful. "My goal is to make the people that work in my section feel valued and inspired to come to work. I want us to work as a team. I want to integrate resource management, fire protection and management services in any way I can." Mark's commitment to the job and positive "can do" attitude will ensure he meets success.

Leaks

Weatherstripping and caulking is probably the least expensive, simplest, most effective way to cut down on wasted energy in the winter. Improperly sealed homes can squander 10 to 15 percent of the homeowner's heating dollars.

Chief, Office of Legislation
Jennifer Stanley

by Leah Sandberg, office technician, Lassen-Modoc Unit

In October, I had the opportunity to visit with Jennifer Stanley, newly appointed Chief of the Office of Legislation. We spoke of the department, her knowledge of legislation, and her goals for the future.

Jennifer joined the CDF team in July of 2000. She promoted from the Trade and Commerce Agency (TCA) where she worked for the past 16 years. Jennifer spent seven years at TCA as international project manager in the International Trade and Investment Division and nine years in the Legislative Affairs Office. In 1999 she served as manager of the Trade and Commerce Agency Legislative Affairs Office for the Davis Administration during the transition, supervising a staff of four and handling over 110 bills for the agency. She is skilled in the legislative process and international protocol for visiting delegations.

When asked her thoughts about CDF, Jennifer responded, "I am learning so much about California and the forest and fire protection issues. It is challenging, but it has also been interesting." Jennifer said she often finds herself at dinner with friends talking about topics such as watersheds, fire protection, timber harvesting plans and other departmental issues - subjects she never imagined she would be discussing.

Some of Jennifer's duties include supervising the review, analysis, and recommendations on proposed legislation that impacts CDF. The Office of Legislation works with CDF management, the Resources Agency, and the Governor's Office on legislative policies and departmental positions.

Jennifer and her staff of four are busy analyzing bills during each legislative session. Each bill has a strict deadline that must be met. Jennifer enjoys this responsibility and says, "The department has a very clear mission." And for Jennifer, that makes the job easier. That's a blessing, considering the Office of Legislation reviews over 1,100 bills each year. The legislative season, which got underway this January, is in full swing and once again Jennifer and her staff are meeting these new challenges.

The Office of Legislation's responsibilities have recently been expanded to include coordinating foreign delegations. The department receives several requests each year from other countries interested in visiting CDF to learn more about the programs and training curricula that

make the department so successful. Jennifer's past experience in this area will be a valuable asset to the office as it takes on this new task.

Jennifer's passion is traveling both domestically and internationally. "Visiting foreign lands is a continuation of life's educational process and broadens one's global perspective." Jennifer has traveled to Canada, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, England, France and Italy, and many U.S. states.

When asked about her goals, Jennifer responded, "I want to run an efficient and organized legislative program for the department and work to see that the objectives are fulfilled through the legislative process." With the experience she brings to the department, there is no doubt she will not only meet these goals, but exceed them as well.

Out-of-State
Communique' assignment provides new perspective

by Leah Sandberg, office technician, Lassen-Modoc Unit

When I was given the opportunity to go to CDF headquarters in Sacramento to help out for a little while I was jazzed (that's putting it mildly). But, when I was asked to write an article on the out-of-state assignments of our folks last season, I started to feel a little stressed. It was very important to me to write something that contained the facts, who went where, etc., but more importantly to share the experiences of those who traveled out-of-state with those who didn't have the opportunity.

I started out by gathering the facts – several friends made that easy. I sent out a few e-mails asking folks to share their experiences. By the time I was done I had an article that was packed with numbers and crammed with details about how the dispatch came about. A friend read it and told me it sounded like a commercial. Ouch…I guess I missed my mark. So I tore that one up and started again, and I feel better about the end result. My heart wasn't in the first one…but it is in this one.

The folks returning from out-of-state assignments shared many experiences that made me wish I could have been there with them rather than just writing about it after the fact. It seemed their assignments were not only rewarding, but for some, the best thing to happen so far in their careers. They shared their thoughts, their frustrations, and their photos.

I received pictures electronically and through the mail, and gained a new appreciation for what our people experience out on the fireline. I saw pictures of an evening sky ablaze with fire and forests draped in flame. I've always heard a wildfire can sound like a freight train. Looking at the pictures, I thought I heard it coming down the tracks. I saw firefighters dressed in Nomex, soaked with sweat, headlamps shining, boots white with ash, and faces streaked with dirt, sitting on the scorched soil and I swear I could smell the acrid aroma of charred, wet earth. I saw personnel standing in unfamiliar country among newly made friends in base camps so large they needed street signs and roadmaps to get around, and I could feel the camaraderie that day after day of working together toward the same mission can bring.

Time and again as I read the stories of those who went out-of-state a common theme surfaced. There was the simple excitement of being one of the few doing something different. There was pride in being able to display the CDF patch among other agencies, in other states. There was honor in demonstrating the fire fighting capabilities and expertise not only on an individual basis and as the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, but representing the State of California as well.

From California to Colorado and Montana to New Mexico CDF was represented. Here's what our friends and colleagues had to say:

Bryan Weber went to Grangeville, Idaho as a geographical information system (GIS) technical specialist on Incident Command Team (ICT) #3. "We were the first CDF team sent out-of-state. We broke new ground with this assignment." Bryan said. "We went to the Burnt Flats Fire in Grangeville. It wasn't flat but it was definitely burnt." Bryan ran into some unique problems as a GIS tech. specialist out-of-state. The GIS section had to link to the databanks at the district forest service supervisor's office in order to download information and make maps for Idaho. In the beginning, Bryan and his team ran into some other challenges. "Some people felt we were taking jobs away from locals and that if we came from California we must be arrogant." Even with these obstacles, Bryan said it was a good experience and he would go again. Valerie Burke also responded to the Burnt Flats Incident. "I am the supply unit leader on ICT #3. The Idaho assignment was actually my first activation with the team. Throw in a whole different state, a lot of different policies, procedures, rules and regulations and there's no doubt I experienced and learned a lot. The Burnt Flats Incident was fourth priority for national cache supplies, but between the Burnt Flats Federal Buying Team, the Idaho Department of Lands Cache and the local USFS warehouse, we received most of the items that were ordered. They were all very helpful, cooperative, and prompt."

Mike Smith went to Montana as an ordering manager. One of the questions I asked Mike was how he was treated while out of state? "I was treated very well. It was great to work with so many people from around the U.S. and abroad, gaining experience and exchanging information."

Dave Kern was also dispatched as an ordering manager to McCall, Idaho. "We put in some long hours, but at the end of each day we headed up the road to some hot-springs to relax and unwind. I met a lot of nice folks from around the country and

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Australia. One afternoon I spotted a moose and her calf in a nearby meadow. The entire experience was a career highlighter."

Bob Ladd was originally dispatched to Denver, Colorado, was diverted to Riverton, Wyoming traveled through Idaho Falls, Idaho and eventually landed in Arlee, Montana as a ground support unit leader of ICT #2. "The best part was being able to show the CDF uniform in other states beside California. It was really amazing how many of the locals remember the department from the 1988 seasons when we were there during the Yellowstone fires." For Bob, the worst part occurred in Riverton, Wyoming. "As ground support unit leader, I helped in a burn over investigation, and had to arrange to have the burned engine transported back to their home state. I have been involved with accident investigations before, but none that involved a fatality. This was something that drove home the idea that this could happen to any one of us that fight fire for a living."

Bruce Yuhasz was assigned to the Nine Mile Complex for 18 days, supervising a crew from Butte Fire Center. "CDF resources became known for our work ethic and professionalism. Fighting fire in Montana was especially challenging due to the magnitude of the problem and the lack of operational resources. Burning conditions fluctuated dramatically within a four-hour window nearly every operational period. Tactical plans varied from CDF oriented direct attack, to strategies that were uncomfortably indirect. Many of the considerations facing a fire crew captain remained the same as in California. Crew safety, adequate food and hydration, morale, radio communications, chainsaw maintenance, and off shift rest are always priorities."

Craig Carter went to Silver City, New Mexico on the Gila National Forest as a fire behavior analyst. I asked if he gained any new appreciation for the department having worked with other agencies? "I did. I appreciate the professionalism that is so prevalent in the department. In Montana, when our engines arrived, they presented the image of a professional department, ready to do what needed to be done." I was curious if Craig's experience in New Mexico was different than California? "This assignment was very different from others in the fact that there was no attempt made to suppress the fire, only monitor it and take appropriate action when it reached various trigger points. The protection of the Gila trout, an endangered species, and the numerous archeological sites, including cliff dwellings, were of major concern to the resource managers."

Ted DeNapoli was assigned as part of Strike Team 9160C to the Skalkaho Complex in Bitter Root Valley, Montana. "I was very proud to be a part of one of the six strike teams to represent the department. I was also very proud of how we represented ourselves as professionals to firefighters from different parts of the world. I believe that CDF as an organization is the best in the world and it is because of the degree of personnel that they have working for them that makes it that way. We are an all risk department and it shows in what we can accomplish. The work was hard and long, with living conditions below what we are used to. The smoky atmosphere was wearing us down combined with the hard work we were doing, but everyone in our strike team was proud to be there and wanted to do a good job and show the rest of the world what CDF was really made of. The people of Montana were very appreciative of what we did and again I felt proud to be a part of CDF when the Governor of Montana thanked us personally."

Left, moose were a regular and interesting sight for our folks. Above, the results of firing operations on the Burnt Flats Incident in Grangeville, Idaho. Photos by members of Incident Command Team #3.

Would they be eager to go again? Look at these responses: "I would jump at the chance to go out-of-state again.", "In a heartbeat.", "I would gladly participate in another out-of-state assignment representing CDF fire.", "I would gladly except another out-of-state assignment. The knowledge I gained on this assignment will be an asset in any future assignments.", "In a hot minute! It was probably one of the most interesting and intense things I've been part of in my 20 years in CDF."

I don't know if I hit my mark with this article, but I hope I did justice to the experiences of those who went out-of-state. I want to thank everyone who took the time to contribute. Each time I received an e-mail I was your captive audience. I want to thank those who were willing to share photos. I must have looked through them five or six times. I would have liked to sit and hear the stories of each person who went out-of-state. Of course, it's probably better that I didn't or I'd be ready to turn in my keyboard for a set of nomex and web gear.

I'm envious - I'll tell you that right now. I don't wear the CDF uniform - it's not a requirement of my job. But, hearing the stories and seeing

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the pictures makes me wish I did. This department awes me with the skills and dedication of ***all*** of its people and I'm proud to be a part of it. I'm proud of what we do, who we are, and what we represent.

Summary

Our resources were dispatched to Nevada, Montana, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, and New Mexico.

We dispatched six strike teams of engines, one strike team of crews from Butte Fire Center, and 60 overhead personnel.

Overhead assignments included: incident command teams, agency representatives, unit leaders for ground support, supply, food, facilities, resources, and communications, technical specialists, military crew advisors, plans section chiefs, finance section chiefs, safety and liaison officers, geographical information system technicians, operations branch directors, helibase managers, division supervisors, dozer boss, and fire behavior analyst.

The farthest distance traveled was over 1,200 miles. One member of an incident management team who was originally dispatched to Colorado, was diverted to Riverton, Wyoming, before ending up in Arlee, Montana.

The average length of assignment was between nine and 15 days. The longest assignments were for military crew advisors who spent 29 days out-of-state.

To Montana . . .

by Dave Athey, battalion chief, Santa Clara Unit

Part I – The Getaway

I couldn't believe my luck on Sunday afternoon, August 27, when I was told by the Santa Clara Duty Chief Rick Hutchinson that I, as a result of a recently completed conference call, was to relieve Battalion Chief Steve Barrett as the strike team leader for Strike Team (ST) 9160 C in Montana! Steve had left nearly three weeks earlier as part of the CDF's consignment of 30 engines (six strike teams) to respond to the request from Montana Governor Marc Racicot for assistance from the western regional states for the control of the fires that were devastating his state.

The replacements for the 120 firefighters that were already in Montana were due to fly from Sacramento to Missoula on Wednesday, August 30. Six strike team leaders were to drive from California to Missoula and arrive for an evening briefing at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, August 29. Our approved travel route was faxed to us and I started to make arrangements for the trip. We were also to take a "relief driver", so I contacted Fire Captain Martin Castenada and told him to have his gear ready and at Morgan Hill Headquarters at 8 a.m.. Martin is a man of many talents which I knew could come in handy on a trip such as this.

We left at 10:30 on Monday morning, August 28. The Bay Area traffic had subsided enough to allow us to take Highway 680 directly to Interstate 80 near Fairfield, and we made it to our lunch stop in Reno in good time. Martin had failed to win his fortune at the quarter slot machine near the restroom on our way out, thus requiring him to continue on with his fire fighting career! We went back onto Interstate 80 as we continued eastward.

This was the first time I have ever been east of Sparks, Nevada, in my life and I was struck by the bleakness of the state. There were hours of NOTHING between Reno and Lovelock. And once at Lovelock, I couldn't help but notice the signs stating "ILLEGAL TO PICK UP HITCHIKERS". The reason for this became clear as we rounded the sweeping right-hand bend just past Lovelock and the Nevada State Penitentiary came into a full, floodlight-illuminated view. Another three hours of nothingness brought us to Winnemucca and a gas stop. Two hours later we were in Elko.

After a quick night's sleep we were on the road and heading to Missoula. We arrived on time and were met with the traditional signs of a fire disaster area familiar to all experienced fire fighters – the thick smell of smoke, burning eyes, irritated throats and visibility so poor that hills in the immediate area were obscured. We immediately met with Chief Pete Finnie and his replacement, Division Chief Todd Dorris, at a motel just off of Highway 90 on the west side of Missoula. Our briefing described the plan for the next day.

There was to be a U.S. Forest Service charter aircraft from Texas arriving at 10 a.m. the next day (Wednesday, August 30) to pick up the crews that were bedding down and fly them to Sacramento. During this interlude the 30 engines were to be checked for maintenance and repair needs. The plane was to pick up the replacement crews in Sacramento and arrive back at Missoula at 2 p.m. Wednesday. At 5 p.m. Wednesday we would have another briefing, this time with Chief Todd Dorris and his very capable aid Battalion Chief John King, and we would get our assignments.

After the briefing, Martin and I had dinner at a restaurant that would become familiar to everyone that enjoyed the Montana experience – "The Four B's"! We met Steve

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Barrett and he gave us a detailed rundown on the experiences of his strike team. I made mental notes (OK, mental sticky-notes, small size) of Steve's "words of wisdom" and promised myself to learn from his experiences. We finished dinner and then went to bed.

Wednesday morning was much the same as the day before – little visibility, strong smell of smoke, fire engines everywhere. Lots of signs in front of motels, stores and practically any other business that HAD a sign saying "Thanks, firefighters!" and "Montana says THANK YOU, Firefighters!" This place had turned into an Anderson Staging, North. We had our breakfast and followed ST 9160 C out to the airport so that they could be flown home to California. We arrived at 9 a.m., about 20 minutes before the Governor of Montana arrived to express his thanks to the departing Californians.

Governor Marc Racicot arrived with a contingent of reporters. Wearing a light blue shirt, no tie, blue jeans and cowboy boots, the governor first spoke to the crews as a group. He expressed his deepest, heartfelt thanks that folks from the great state of California would come all of the way out to Missoula with 30 of the finest fire engines he had ever seen.

The governor then started down the entire length of the parked engines and 120 firefighters, and shook hands and spoke to each and every one of us. He took his time as if he had all day, even joking with some of the Santa Cruz engine crewmembers that kept referring to him as "Dude"! Just as the charter jet arrived for the crews he took the time to accept a CDF hat from Chief Finnie, as well as autograph a hat for Pete before he caught the plane.

The crews departed a little after 10 a.m. enroute to Sacramento. We took advantage of the gap from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to orient ourselves with the Missoula area. Steve told us that we would probably want to make sure that we had appropriate cold weather gear and tents. We found a large outdoor supply store and made a note of it in case some of the crewmembers needed gear. This later proved to be a good idea, as weight limits on the charter plane were pretty much taken up with safety gear and the rain and cold would prove to only be three or four days away!

We met the returning crews as they exited the plane. Their engines were ready and waiting. We left the Missoula International Airport for the motel, dinner, the evening briefing and the next day's assignments.

II. Trolling for a Job

We were up at 4:30 a.m. on the still smoky morning of Thursday, August 31 and enroute to the town of Hamilton, about 40 miles south of Missoula. The Ravalli County Fairgrounds in Hamilton was the incident base for the Skalkaho Complex and we needed to be there for the 6:30 a.m. briefing. The drive took about an hour and after checking in at the incident base I went to the grandstands, picked up a copy of the Incident Action Plan (IAP), and attended the morning operational briefing.

In looking through the IAP I found that we were not listed as an available resource, in fact we (ST 9160C) were not listed anywhere. The ICT that had come in to replace the outgoing team was from Ontario, Canada. They were a great group of people that were very professional and organized, in the same position as us – they had just arrived and were finding their way around.

I went in and spoke with the Operations Section Chief Rob Keller. I told him who we were, the type of equipment we had and our capabilities. This was my bait. He was interested, but he didn't take the hook. He said if he had a chance that evening he would come out and take a look at the engines, and let the division supervisors know we were available. We parted company and I went out to the parking area and told everyone that though we would have no fire line assignment that day, we'd be at "the top of the list" the day following. The engines from Santa Cruz (we were a mixed SCU/CZU strike team) immediately produced two frisbees and a football, so we passed them around for the rest of the day.

Friday morning, September 1, arrived and I went to my second operational briefing at 6:30 a.m. Again we didn't have a division assignment, but at least we made the list of resources available in staging. I decided that another day in staging was not for us, so I headed into the division briefings with the grim determination of a CDFer on a fire without a job. I was still trolling for an assignment, ANY assignment would do.

As everyone was receiving his or her assignments, a USFS strike team leader approached and stood beside me. We listened to the fire situation on Division "T". There was a quick break and he took the opportunity to introduce himself. His name was Ryan Harvey and he was from the San Jaciento (the "San Jack") District of the San Bernardino National Forest. Shortly into our conversation I realized that Ryan was our ticket out of another day in staging. He told me that he had some excellent experiences working with the CDFers from the San Diego and Riverside units, and asked if we already had an assignment. I said that we did not, but we would welcome one.

Ryan told me that he had been given an area of Division "T" that had his strike team (the Del Rosa Hotshots), as well as the Bitterroot Hotshots, the Geronimo Hotshots and a number of "Type VI" engines

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that were mostly improvised flatbed trucks with a temporary tank and a small portable pump nailed to the bed to hold it in place. Ryan said these engines were essential for the emergency, but a strike team of CDF Type III engines would be a god-send! We approached Randy, the supervisor of Division "T", and requested assignment to Ryan's area. The request was approved - we had a line assignment!

III. The Days get Better - The Nights get Worse

After our morning safety briefing, we followed Ryan as he and the Del Rosa Hotshots headed south out of Hamilton. We went about five miles south and turned east onto the Skalkaho Highway which goes over the Bitterroot Mountains from Hamilton to the famous mining town of Anaconda. We went another six miles until the paved road came to an end and then turned south again and headed along Daly Creek and the Bitterroot Forest 75 Road.

Ryan explained that the creek served as the eastern boundary of the "Bear" fire, and in places, the southwestern corner of the "Coyote" fire, the two main fires that comprised the Skalkaho Complex. The maps that had been made of the fires were not correct, but the fire was lying down as the weather had changed that morning for the cooler – so our first priority was to make some maps of the fire perimeter along the Forest 75 Highway.

We worked late into the evening, as there were no night shifts. We all belonged to one big day shift. The shift began at 5:30 a.m. with a shower and breakfast, followed by an operational briefing at 6:30 a.m., and a divisional briefing at 7 a.m. Then we were off to the McDonald's parking lot and our morning safety briefing at 8 a.m. Our day did not end until well after dark.

As the sun set that evening we could see the building storm clouds of what appeared to be the "mother of all lightning storms". Lightning lit the skies and crackled around our heads as we worked our way back out the dirt roads onto the pavement. We reached the highway with the wind on our tails and arrived at the incident base just as a wave of genuine Montana rain soaked us.

It rained and it lightning'ed. It was great. After eating, the crews headed to the tents to get some sleep. These tents proved to be a weak defense against the rain. It didn't matter much because no one wanted to miss a genuine *Montana hell-fire and brimstone* lightning blast! I spent this night in my Bronco. Other crews had also slipped into their engines so that they could sleep dry and watch the display. As I settled my seat all the way back and stuck my rolled-up nomex shirt behind my head for a pillow, I looked over to the engines beside me. With each flash of lightning I saw wide eyes and pale, tired faces that didn't want to miss this once-in-a-lifetime show.

The morning came too soon, and we were all tired. I showered, grabbed a large styrofoam cup, filled it with decaf coffee, poured in a package of hot chocolate mix, stirred in some milk, some sugar, a little creamer, and went to the 6:30 briefing. I grabbed an IAP and sat down on the hard wooden seat next to Ryan. As the sun came up the interest in the briefing lessened. For the first time in over a month the skies had cleared. Strike team leaders, section chiefs, safety officers, and firefighters took a moment to watch the sun rise on a spectacular view of the Bitterroot Valley and the rolling green hills of Ravalli County. The beginning of the rainstorms had brought the Labor Day Weekend and the beginning of the end of the dirge for Montana.

IV. Aboot One Hoof

The difference between our ways and those of our Canadian counterparts soon became apparent. When the fire weather forecaster was asked how much rainfall we had received, he replied "Aboot 15 to 20 millimeters". We looked at him with confusion on our faces. After a short pause and a wide grin he said, "For you Americans in the crowd, that wood be aboot one hoof of an inch!" and started laughing. He was having way too much fun for so early in the morning.

When ST 9160C arrived on the line for the day shift of September 2, it was apparent that we still had a mess on our hands. The rain had turned a fire line perimeter operation into a massive mop-up procedure. The rain had not put the fire out, but had given us slippery roads and an obscure fire line by letting it lie down quietly and blend into the rest of the forest. We spent the day in the mop-up mode and returned to camp feeling that we hadn't accomplished much.

The storms had moved back in again and Martin convinced me that it would do the crews no good to continue sleeping in the rain. He had made some calls and found a bed and breakfast inn nearby where we could let the crews dry out their gear and get a decent night's sleep. The name of the place was the "Heavenly View Hideaway" in Corvallis and Judy Joy was the owner/operator. We arrived on her doorstep wet and tired, and from the very beginning she treated us like royalty.

The rains continued on and off for the next few days, and we began to fall into the familiar pattern that comes with most "campaign" fires. We received our morning assignments then left the incident base and had our daily safety briefing at the McDonalds parking lot – enjoying a fresh cup of "non-fire camp coffee". We then headed out for more mop-up. As the smoke dissipated, we were able to enjoy the panoramic

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views afforded by clear visibility and we realized we were working in one of the world's most beautiful settings. Everyone looked forward to the day's work and enjoyed living the life of a firefighter.

Our assignments found us slowly working our way up the mountains. The hot shot crews tuned into the fact that it was a lot easier to have an engine take a line about 400' down a hill and leave it there for refilling back-pumps than it was to walk all of the way down to the creek, refill and walk all the way back up. We were a long way from being left in staging; and in fact they started to build roads specifically for us to access the highest areas of the fire! All of the hot shots were a great bunch of firefighters to work with. After a long day we returned to the incident base, reloaded the engines, ate, cleaned up and then "show time" began!

We were the show! Since there were firefighters from all over North America, we were approached by people interested in our "interface" engines. At the dinner tables and in the briefings folks were told to get a hold of "the feller in the white shirt" if they were interested in looking at "those California interface engines". Many nights we were busy showing folks the capabilities of our engines. We soon ran out of our CDF brochures, so Dan Stewart, fire apparatus engineer from Belmont, found a photocopier where we could make more and we left a stack in the information section, along with our "Santa Clara Unit" trifolds. After our nightly demonstrations we headed to the "Heavenly View Hideaway" for a quick, dry night's sleep.

By now the word was out that we were approaching the end. The favorable weather had slowed the activity to the point where the U.S. Forest Service and Montana crews could handle the fires. There was a "Thank You, Firefighters" Day at the Hamilton High School football field, so I attended on behalf of the CDF. When I left the Skalkaho to head to Hamilton, I crossed the path of a mother moose and two calves. I was definitely more startled than they were. The mother barely acknowledged my existence - until I started walking up to take their picture! Realizing that I was on the verge of making a BIG mistake, I quickly snapped a picture as they started to move off.

Once at the high school I sat in a prepared area and stood as we did the Pledge of Allegiance. The people of Montana spent the next hour telling stories of their victories, losses, close calls and their deep and powerful appreciation for the firefighters. All of us were moved, but two letters at the end of the ceremony, from a pair of young boys, left me with my longest lasting memories of the entire experience.

The boys, both from smaller towns in the fire area, were evacuated to the high school during the height of the fire activity. Awaiting word on what the fires were doing and if they would have any homes left to return to, the boys each wrote a letter. The younger boy's read "Dear Firefighters. Please be careful fighting these fires. They are dangerous. Please save my house. Also, please don't walk out under the air tankers. My momma says they drop retardation."

The older boy's letter read, "Dear Firefighters. Please save my NEW house. It is not finished yet. You can tell because it is next to our trailer. We are still living in that trailer. My dad says that when the new house is finished I will have my own room. I will no longer have to sleep with STUPID (apparently, his little brother). Go ahead and burn down the trailer. I don't like it very much."

V – Homeward Bound

That next evening was to be our last in Hamilton. I went in to the "Heavenly View Hideaway" where I met Judy Joy and told her that this was our last night here. She was near tears as she explained what our staying had meant to her. She made one request of me. She asked if she could throw her bedroll down in the big sleeping area with us. We bed down together all the time. It's how we make our living, but this was a "once-in-a-lifetime" treat for her! The way we were all spread out on the floor in our sleeping bags (room was limited but we didn't mind), telling jokes and stories, kidding around, catching up on our wash – it was something she wanted to feel a part of, even if it was only one night.

We immediately cleared off the big couch for her bedroll. Even the most tired of us stayed up with her, talking of past fires and the many "hair-raising" events we had experienced. "There was fire to the right of us, there was fire to the left of us…" and so on into the wee hours of the night. This wasn't just a treat for Judy, but one for us as well. We were going to remember this forever, just like her. She was doing us a favor by reminding us how lucky we were!

The next morning was the beginning of the end we are all familiar with. The demob process: small part repairs, returning soggy tents and limp sleeping bags, and the trip back home. We returned to Missoula and after debriefing with Chief Todd Dorris and having one last meal at "The 4 B's", we went to our motel rooms and got our first decent night's sleep in 11 days. The next morning we ate breakfast and headed out to the parking lot where we were met by a strike team of Type IV "Quick Attacks" from Salem, Massachusetts. We had made a coast-to-coast link in Missoula - from California to Montana and Montana to Massachusetts.

The first leg of the trip home took

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us to the Smokejumper School in Missoula, the Missoula Fire Science Laboratory and the Rocky Mountain Research Station. We received the approval from Sacramento to take the return route through Idaho, and Spokane, Washington along the Columbia River Gorge into Oregon and then home to Morgan Hill and Santa Cruz. We received a tour of the facilities at Missoula and cleaned out the gift shop of "T" shirts, coffee cups, books, posters and other valuables. Then we hit the road and headed home.

One hour later we were out of Montana and entering the Pacific Standard Time zone in Idaho. We experienced more rains as we lunched in Coeur d'Alene.

We made it to the tri-cities area of Washington for the night. After another good night's sleep we managed to make it through Portland and down Interstate 5 to Grants Pass, Oregon for the second night. The next morning saw us coming over the pass and into Hornbrook, California. Everyone was safe at home on Sunday evening, September 10.

The feeling of accomplishment, the excitement of going across the country, and the pride in the professionalism of CDF was not only felt by us, but expressed to us in every town from Salt Lake City to Missoula to Portland. Every place we stopped and every meal we ate provided an opportunity for the people of whatever town we were in to approach us and say "So, you guys are from California, huh!" and then proceed to shake our hands, slap our backs, ask us questions, tell us where they were from or who they knew in California, and thank us.

Generators

If you use a generator, NEVER plug it into your whole house circuit without the proper double-poll, double-throw transfer switch. This will ensure that power doesn't backfeed into a line and injure workers who are trying to repair the line.

To Idaho . . .

by CDF Incident Command Team #3

With resources stretched thin over what was a record-setting fire year, land management agencies called on help as close as next door and as far away as Australia to supplement their overworked fire personnel. On August 23, 2000 the call came in from the U.S. Forest Service and the Idaho Department of Lands, requesting a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Incident Command Team (ICT) to assist in what were the most extreme fire conditions ever witnessed in this area. This would be a first for a California team to be sent out-of-state.

The Blue Mountain Team had been on the incident for 14 days, and an Australian/ New Zealand Team had been sent to Idaho to shadow the Blue Mountain Team. CDF Incident Command Team #3 was assigned to relieve these two Type II Teams, and began to arrive in Grangeville, Idaho on August 24 and 25.

Del Walters, incident commander (IC) of ICT #3 was unable to respond, so Alan Stovall, IC of ICT #1 was selected to fill the role. Several other members of Chief Stovall's team were also chosen to respond. In addition, 10 other positions were added to the order and filled by qualified Sierra-South Region personnel. A total of 37 team members were dispatched to the incident. The management of the fire was turned over to IC Stovall and Team #3 at 6:00 a.m. on August 26. The team arrived to find the main structure of plans in place. They contacted North Tree Fire International to provide clerical support.

After being briefed, the team learned that the fire was burning about six miles south of Grangeville in the White Bird Creek Area on the Nez Perce National Forest. The fire had been ranked fourth of all the fires and area commands in the west because of its potential to spread throughout the Salmon River Canyon. The fire was 18,000 acres at the end of the transition briefing. It had originated on grounds administered by the Idaho Department of Lands, but was now burning completely on U.S. Forest Service property.

By Thursday, August 31, 2000, crews completed the burnout of the direct and indirect lines just before a wet weather system moved into the area leaving 1.7 inches of rain. With the decline in fire control measures, resources were redirected to an extensive rehab project developed

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and implemented by the district resource specialist and Team #3 operations staff. The fire was contained at 8:00 p.m. on Friday September 1, 2000 and maximum effort was put into the rehab operations. There was minimal need for mop-up and patrol, and the incident was transitioned to a Clearwater Ranger District Type III Team on September 6, 2000.

Before heading home, CDF ICT #3 was recognized as being a Type I incident management team. The Idaho Department of Lands expressed that the arrival, transition, management, and demobilization of the incident was everything and more than what was expected. Robert McKnight of the Idaho Department of Lands wrote, "You have acted professional, met our objectives and always looked for efficiency. You raised the bar for the next team and left us a complete fire package. Thanks. You're welcome again (if needed) on the Clearwater Supervisory Area."

When resources are spread so thin it is nice to see agencies helping one another. This was the first of hopefully many more out-of-state assignments for CDF Incident Command Teams. The mixture of two teams worked well. The experience was educational and rewarding, and will be reflected upon for years to come as a successful method of developing excellence in fire management.

Teams get ready for 2001 Fire Season

CIIMT Workshop

by Bryan Zollner, operations section chief, CDF Incident Command Team #8

The downstairs conference room of the Sacramento Doubletree Hotel looked like a huge class reunion, as over 600 fire service personnel came together on March 19-22, 2001 for the California Interagency Incident Management Team (CIIMT) Workshop. Some folks hadn't seen one another since the last workshop, while others reminisced about the fires of 2000. Spring was in full bloom in Sacramento, temperatures were warming up, and everyone was ready to gear up for fire season 2001.

The workshop got underway with a grand kickoff from Karen Terrill, master of ceremonies for the event. Teams heard from the Sacramento City Fire Department, United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, California Wildland Coordinating Group and CDF Director Andrea Tuttle.

On Monday afternoon, team members enjoyed an outstanding presentation on the qualities of leadership, given by Stan Morrison, athletic director, California State University, Riverside. Stan kept the audience laughing with anecdotes about his career as a basketball coach and father. That afternoon, each team including 10 Type I CDF Incident Command Teams, five Type I Federal Interagency Teams and five Type II Federal Interagency Teams, met individually to discuss team specific issues, review past performance and prepare for the upcoming fire season.

Tuesday started early, with presentations by Chief Greg Greenhoe of the U.S. Forest Service, "Jedi" John Hawkins of CDF, and Mike Sandeman of Los Angeles County Fire. The second half of the day was dedicated to team functions. Each functional area (operations, finance, plans, information, etc.) both state and federal, came together to brainstorm ideas and learn from one another.

On Wednesday morning those same functional areas met again, this time with state and federal folks gathering separately. Wednesday afternoon, everyone came together one last time for a workshop wrap-up, before separating into CDF and federal workgroups to address agency specific issues. That afternoon Woody Allshouse, Glen Newman and other executive staff from CDF Sacramento Headquarters and Sierra-South and Coast-Cascade Regions addressed the CDF Incident Command Teams. Staff took this opportunity to present awards to Steve Hile and Lee Delap for their many years of service as team incident commanders (ICs).

After three days of innovating, sharing information and problem solving, the only folks still standing Thursday morning were incident commanders. ICs met with executive staff to discuss concerns, propose ideas and prepare for the upcoming fire season.

The CIIMT Workshop of 2001 was outstanding. Special thanks goes out to CDF Incident Command Team #8 with IC Steve Lombardo and Deputy IC Bob Green. This team worked for almost a complete year to make this workshop what was described as "The best workshop ever!" Thanks also go out to U.S. Forest Service, Region 5 Team #2 for integrating so well with CDF ICT #8, and to Doug Wagner, the Interagency Oversight Working Group chair.

Technology Advances

A View of the Future - Thermal Imaging

by Vince Wall, deputy chief – operations, Coast-Cascade Region

STAR WARS COMES TO CDF. After many months of discussion and negotiating, CDF is now testing the latest generation of thermal imaging capability offered to the public. The possible application of this technology was discussed at the Emergency Operations Advisory Committee (EOAC) in November of 2000. The question was, would the technology being offered in the 2000 year Cadillac automobile line have any benefit to our fire fighting operation. The pieces involved were a thermal imaging camera, a black box, and a view screen. Upon contact with Raytheon Corporation it was determined that this product had not been tested with this particular fire service application in mind. Convinced that there might be a useful application revolving around fire fighting safety, CDF continued to explore the possibility of placing this technology onto one of our fire engines. Eventually, Raytheon Corporation put CDF in contact with one of their leading distributors Crash Rescue Equipment Service, Inc. out of Dallas, Texas.

On Thursday, August 24, Crash Rescue Equipment Service, Inc. flew a service technician to San Jose, California. Deputy Chief Vince Wall, acting as the EOAC liaison, met and transported the technician to CDF's Santa Clara Unit Headquarters in Morgan Hill, California. Santa Clara Unit Chief Steve Woodill, was on hand to meet with the technician and see the project begin. The equipment consisted of a 360-degree pan and tilt camera, recording box, joystick control, and a seven-inch view screen. The equipment was successfully mounted onto engine 1660, which was stationed at Castle Rock Station, in western San Joaquin County. The camera unit was installed on a temporary light bar mount. The black box was positioned behind the rear seat. The joystick, with approximately 3 feet of cable to allow for some remote use, and the view screen, were mounted at dashboard level, ensuring the driver's view would not be obstructed. Initial testing confirmed that all of the pieces were working correctly, with one exception, a minor glitch in the on board telemetry was malfunctioning. Thanks to Fire Equipment Manager Mike Ursitti and crew, and the folks at Crash Rescue Equipment Services who sent out a new view screen, the unit functioned as designed.

The objective of the beta testing was to determine if this particular system of thermal imaging would allow for useful application within the fire environment. Specifically, CDF would test this technology during direct attack/mobile attack operations. This method of attack in rolling flashy fuels typically causes the firefighters out in front and to the side of the engine, to become obscured by smoke. It was anticipated that thermal imaging would allow the vehicle operator to continually see the firefighters outside of the engine even in extremely smoky conditions. A second area where this technology might prove useful was during structure defense operations. CDF has long been a pioneer in urban interface fire fighting. The practice of deploying an engine between two structures threatened by an approaching fire front has become all too commonplace in today's wildland fire responses. These operations demand that firefighters stay at the structure as the fire front passes through the exposures. The surroundings quickly become obscured due to the heavy smoke being generated by the natural and man-made fuel sources. Communication and visibility are paramount to firefighter safety in these scenarios. CDF wanted to determine if thermal imaging technology could provide another means of ensuring that all crewmembers were accounted for. Two additional areas where this technology would be evaluated were during emergency response in thick fog conditions, and while CDF fire apparatus were involved in backing maneuvers.

The beta testing began in the Santa Clara Unit. After six months, the engine was moved to the Fresno-Kings Unit to be tested in wet foggy conditions. In March of 2001 the engine was moved to the Butte Unit where it is currently being tested in an Amador/Schedule A (local government-contract) environment.

While in the Santa Clara Unit the new technology was tested on wildland and mobile attack operations with varying degrees of success. Nighttime fire fighting operations proved to be a beneficial use of the device. Firefighters observed embers being transported across the fireline, and located heat sources near the line in much less time then normally required. The device was used on structure and grass fires and to view fluid levels of pressurized and non-pressurized vessels in locations such as tank farms. While the unit appeared to indicate the location of firefighters in smoky environments, further development was needed to determine if this technology would allow CDF to see a

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firefighter surrounded by a radiant heat background. It was determined that in very wet, foggy weather conditions, the consistent saturation of surface areas prevented the heat source from being readily identifiable to the camera. The current technology mounted on E1660 was developed for long-range thermal imaging. Though the camera could see three to four miles ahead, it only had a 12-degree field of view. This narrow field of view required the operator to pan for long periods of time in order to see the entire area.

Through this beta-testing agreement, CDF has developed an excellent working relationship with Crash Rescue Services and Raytheon Corporation. Both companies have incorporated suggestions from CDF and developed a new system called "FLIR-ball" that may better serve our needs. CDF will receive this next generation thermal imaging device on May 1, and will test it in what has been termed "Phase II". This new generation of camera has a 45-degree field of view and is designed to detect images within 1500 feet. The new system is smaller, with no need for the black box. The camera has been incorporated into a vehicle spotlight, and the 7 inch television screen currently in use has been replaced with a 9 inch view screen that flips down from the sun visor of a vehicle. The Phase II system will initially be tested in a battalion chief's vehicle in the Riverside Unit.

If these tests prove beneficial, CDF is discussing the possibility of a "Phase III" testing period. The Phase III system will include a hand held device with a view screen that is incorporated into a laptop computer. This system will mount onto a CDF all-terrain vehicle and will be used by field observers to locate hotspots within the fire perimeter.

Engine 1660 from Castle Rock Fire Station equipped with the thermal imaging system on loan to CDF from Crash Rescue Services, Inc.

The thermal imaging system beta-tested by CDF included a 7" screen that was mounted on the dash of Engine 1660.

Also part of the thermal imaging system is a camera with a 360-degree pan and tilt which was mounted in front of the light bar, a black box mounted behind the rear seat, and a joystick with approximately three feet of cable for remote use.

The image will then be overlaid onto a GIS topographical map of the incident. It is envisioned that one day this information could be handed to the division/group supervisor and the personnel assigned to that division could prioritize their fire fighting and mop-up activities based on real time information as to the location of the greatest sources of heat on, or close to, the fire perimeter.

While we will have to wait until the beta test period concludes to make a final determination as to the applicability of this technology to the CDF mission, it is always healthy for any organization to inquire, research and assist in the development of new technology that not only enhances employee safety, but at the same time demonstrates that organizations vision of the future through new and emerging products and ideas. Once again CDF is pioneering new ground in firefighter safety and capability.

WINDOWS

About 40 percent of the unwanted heat that builds up in your house comes in through windows. Although both exterior and interior shades can control this heat gain, exterior shades - items such as awnings, louvers, shutters, rolling shutters and solar screens - are far more effective, since they block sunlight before it enters the windows.

What is it - How do we use it?
Geographic Information System (GIS)

by Sean Griffis, fire captain specialist, Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit

CDF has applied a Geographic Information System (GIS) in various analyses for some time. The use of GIS became more widely applied in 1995 when the Board of Forestry adopted the California Fire Plan. The California Fire Plan is a document that sets the stage for wildland fire protection planning. To accomplish what was described in the fire plan, the department merged technology with available data to derive a product that would help the unit managers mitigate the fire risks within their respective units.

In 1989, CDF migrated from a paper system to an electronic form of fire reporting called Emergency Activity Reporting System (EARS). Geographical information such as streams, roads, towns, elevations etc., had been available for many years. Other data such as population density, weather, and fuels had also been captured by various sources over the years. The Fire Resource and Assessment Program (FRAP) in Sacramento, along with other data source entities, collected all of the appropriate data that would prove useful for the units. Nevada-Yuba-Placer, Tuolumne-Calaveras, and Riverside units were selected as the first units to implement this combined data in conjunction with the fire plan. Each unit was funded for one prefire engineer/ fire captain. In addition, a vegetation management program coordinator was funded for those units that did not already have this position. These three units would demonstrate the value of the program thus showing the need of additional funding to the Legislature and the public. The goal was to have the program operating in all units and contract counties within a three-year fiscal cycle.

The FRAP data was distributed to each of the three units as they began their implementation of the California Fire Plan. Each unit was to take the data and validate it. Since computer models and historical information generated much of the data, validation was necessary to ensure integrity. Once the data was validated, an analysis was done to determine what areas had the highest potential for a costly and damaging fire. The units used the information to work with the stakeholders in the area developing projects to lower fire risks. It was the success of the first three units' that provided the necessary data and equipment needs assessment.

As the fire plan concept grew, an offspring developed – the concept of utilizing GIS information on incidents. At first GIS was used to make higher quality quad maps for incident action plans (IAP). The data, however, was limited to incidents within individual units. In August 1996, full GIS was used for the first time. Dave Shreve of the Office of Emergency Services (OES) used GIS on the "58 Fire," a major CDF incident in San Luis Obispo. Up to this time, local units and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) had been using their own mapping methods, but nothing was well coordinated. Many immediately saw the benefits of the maps being generated and recognized a need to standardize the products being used. Ventura County Fire Department had a mapping unit that had already begun the process of simplifying incident mapping by creating some GIS "tools" specific to those needs. The USFS hired a contractor to build another set of tools, to complement the "prefire engineer tools" and meet the needs of the federal agencies.

Fire Captain Rich Strazzo of the Tuolumne-Calavares Unit took the lead for CDF. He began using the "Ventura Tools" and making recommendations to the developer for improvement. Eventually, the developer was hired under a CDF contract by Robin Marose of FRAP to further develop the tools and simplify the process of incident mapping.

While this was happening the Firefighting Resources of California Organized for Potential Emergencies (FIRESCOPE) was in the process of developing a new Incident Command System (ICS) position for a GIS technical specialist. CDF assigned one to each of their incident management teams. In support of this position FRAP created a set of CDs for each CDF GIS tech. spec. with all the initial data required to support an incident. This data included a complete set of statewide 7.5 minute, 250k, and 100k U.S. Geological Survey quads, the statewide roads, state responsibility area, communities layers, fuels and topographic relief (Hillshade) layers broken down by unit and the necessary tools to utilize them. Over time, the "Ventura Tools" have become the statewide standard. Those in combination with the "Incident Mapping" tools developed by Rich Strazzo are taught at the FIRESCOPE GIS training. The tools are public domain and can even be used out of state.

While working as a GIS tech. spec. out-of-state this past season we had the opportunity to introduce the tools to GIS technicians from across

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This GIS team discusses changes on a briefing map in Montana. From L to R: CDF GIS Analyst Mark Rosenberg, Sacramento, Joe Appleton, Kern County Fire, CDF Fire Captain Specialist Sean Griffis, Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit, and CDF Battalion Chief Steven Robertson, San Benito-Monterey Unit.

Plotters can print maps up to 3' x 150'.

the nation, Canada, and Australia. They were all quite impressed at the capabilities and the ease of use. Many of them were planning to take the tools back home and add to or improve them. They promised to keep us informed of any changes made in the event we might benefit from them.

On incidents, data is gathered in many ways. The initial fire lines are gathered via direct communication with the operations personnel assigned to the incident. During the initial stages of a large incident, the emergency can grow much faster than staff can capture and display. The initial goal of the GIS tech spec is to have an IAP and briefing map available for the first briefing. Once that is accomplished staff will begin to improve the accuracy of the data. Field observers are sent out with handheld global positioning systems (GPS), the GIS unit meets directly with the operations staff, and if the incident allows, a GPS helicopter flight over the perimeter is conducted.

Other forms of incident data that may be utilized include Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) and Lines Scan, a U.S. Forest Service program used to fly the incident using infrared to create fire lines. All of the incoming information is then combined to develop the approximate perimeter. Maps for the incident are developed from this information. This data can then be overlaid with ownership layers to determine cost apportionment, parcel layers (if available) for structure protection and damage inspections, road layers for incident access, even fuels, weather, and topography layers to predict potential fire behavior and spread.

The potential uses are only limited by the imaginations of the end users. Currently, GIS is primarily being used to create the five main incident maps: the IAP, the briefing map, the travel map, the facilities map, and the operations map. When time allows other maps are created including public information, air operations, and HillShade maps. Some incidents are using GIS to do FARSITE a stand-alone fire growth simulation model. FARSITE is used to simulate wildland fire growth and behavior under complex conditions of terrain, fuels, and weather.

The GIS program is still in its infancy and will be doing nothing but expanding in the future. Currently, there are only about 15 - 20 people in CDF that have the skills to create incident GIS mapping on large incidents. The U. S. Forest Service, Office of Emergency Services, and contract counties also have a handful of people with the necessary skills. This type of mapping has strong applications in all types of emergencies and its potential only grows with each use.

The initial startup costs are high. Each prefire engineer requires a high-end computer, desktop printer, and a large format plotter. The initial purchase of GIS software easily exceeds $1,500 and each additional extension costs $2,000. The extensions allow for simulations and modeling. Most prefire engineers who make up the pool of GIS technical specialists for CDF, do not have the additional extensions due to the costs. On large incidents CDF hires private contractors that provide a GIS trailer. These trailers come with two to three high-end computers networked together, a large format plotter and printer, CD burners, and the statewide data CDs. The trailers greatly enhance the ability to generate the desired products in the given timeframes. They provide an area to setup equipment, if necessary, that is free from dust and well protected from the environment.

How is CDF using this technology? Along with the fire plan and emergencies, CDF is using this technology to develop preplans for response areas, track fuel reduction work, develop grant proposals, and support the CDF Vegetation Management Program. GIS is also used to predict the effects of development within state responsibility areas (SRA), assist in the SRA review, develop unit maps, develop FARSITE runs for community groups, and more.

If you are interested in learning more about GIS, contact the prefire engineer assigned to your unit, FRAP at (916) 227-2651 or the region prefire coordinators at Fresno or Santa Rosa.

Who, What, Where, When, and Why?

Fire Hazard Zoning

by Melissa Frago, Fire Safe Planning Program Coordinator, Office of the State Fire Marshal

"Do I live in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone?" Local fire chiefs, fire prevention officers, county and city officials often hear this question from their constituents. Are they certain of the answer? Many are not, and some even give wrong answers. So how can local officials become more educated about fire hazard zoning issues in California counties and cities? Reading this article is a very good start.

The first fire hazard zoning efforts in California began with the enactment of Public Resources Code (PRC) §§4201-4204 (Stats.1982, Ch. 806), after fires in San Bernardino, Napa and Los Angeles counties destroyed hundreds of structures. These regulations required the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) to classify all state responsibility area (SRA) lands into fire hazard severity zones based on fuel loading, slope, fire weather and other relevant factors. The purpose of this requirement was to identify measures to reduce the rate of fire spread, and to reduce the potential for damage to lives and property from severe, destructive wildfires. Health and Safety Code (HSC) §13108.5, also enacted in 1982, required that the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) adopt roofing and attic-opening regulations relevant to the SRA fire hazard severity zones. Subsequently, after years of heated public hearings, a minimum Class C roofing standard for new construction was adopted in 1988.

In the years since 1988, roofing standards have become progressively more stringent, now requiring Class A roof coverings in state and local responsibility areas (LRA) identified by CDF and local agencies as "very high" and "high" fire hazard severity zones. Minimum Class B roof coverings are required on all other SRA lands, and minimum Class C roof coverings are required throughout the rest of the state. Untreated, untested wood shake roof coverings are now prohibited for sale in California, and any repairs of existing roofs must be performed with fire retardant materials, including complete replacement for existing structures when 50 percent or more of any roof area is replaced. All of these standards are outlined in HSC §§13108.5 and 13132.7, and they are applicable statewide. Two bills affecting roofing standards have been introduced in the 2001 legislative session. The first, Assembly Bill 326, proposes a requirement that all treated and tested wood shake shingles to be sold in California must be listed by the OSFM as compliant with HSC 13132.7. The second, Senate Bill 914, proposes a tax credit for individuals replacing their existing non-fire retardant roof covering with a fire-retardant one. Both of these bills are indicative of the continuing mission to reduce costs and losses due to uncontrolled wildfires in California.

SRA lands are also subject to additional standards, as outlined in PRC §4291 (Added by Stats.1965, c. 1144, p. 2838, § 9.6. Amended by Stats.1969, c. 688, p. 1356, § 1; Stats.1976, c. 1300, p. 5830, § 58; Stats.1979, c. 1152, p. 4319, § 214). The vegetation clearance and structural protection standards in this section have come to be known as "defensible space" standards. These include:

- **30-100' firebreak around structures, depending on fire hazard severity,**
- **trimming trees that overhang structures,**
- **removal of dead and dying wood and vegetation on and around structures, and**
- **chimney and stovepipe screens to inhibit spark escape.**

Implementation of these standards creates a safe zone around structures that will protect structures from wildfires and give firefighters a chance to defend property, while also protecting surrounding land from escaped structure fires. PRC §4290 (Added by Stats.1987, Ch. 955, § 2, Amended by Stats.1989, Ch. 60, § 1) also mandates fire safe land use planning in the SRA, including:

- **vegetation clearance around structures,**
- **minimum road construction and accessibility standards,**
- **signage and building identification standards,**
- **fuelbreak and greenbelt establishment, and**
- **private water supply requirements.**

Through the enactment of PRC 4290, state agencies were empowered to adopt the extensive "SRA Fire Safe Regulations" found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), §1270, et seq. These standards are similar to those found in the Uniform Fire Code (as published by the International Fire Code Institute), and they have been established as minimum regulations for new construction in the SRA since 1991.

Similar defensible space stan-

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dards were enacted in the LRA by Assembly Bill 337 (Stats. 1992, Ch. 1188) after the Oakland/Berkeley Hills Tunnel Fire and other wildfire disasters (see Government Code §51182). State lawmakers recognized the need to mandate statewide fire safety measures in LRA, since few local agencies had been able to adequately protect lives and property from the severe wildfires they experienced. Pursuant to the Bates bill and Government Code (GC) §51178, the CDF was assigned the task of identifying "very high fire hazard severity zones" (VHFHSZ) in the LRA. It must be noted that the term "VHFHSZ" referred to in the Bates legislation carries with it different legal connotations and requirements than an SRA land ranked "very high" fire hazard severity pursuant to PRC §§4201-4204. Similarly to the SRA classification, the LRA lands were assessed based on fuel loading, weather and topography, while also including other factors such as structure density and infrastructure. This LRA review was undertaken by CDF in cooperation with local agencies. CDF unit personnel, local fire chiefs and/or fire prevention officers signed topographical maps of each county if any VHFHSZ was identified. These reviews took place in late 1994 and throughout 1995. This process was referred to in the Bates legislation as an identification of zones by CDF. However, the CDF role was not technically "zoning," since all land use designations and planning decisions in the LRA are still under local agency jurisdiction. Therefore, the use of the term VHFHSZ in the Bates legislation served to confuse the agencies involved as to who was responsible for local fire hazard assessment, classification and zoning. Only a local jurisdiction can legally designate, adopt, amend or rescind a VHFHSZ identification that was made pursuant to the Bates bill.

Unfortunately for the cause of accurate statewide fire hazard assessment, exceptions were written into the Bates legislation. As a result, Government Code §51179 reads, "*A local agency shall be exempt from this* [zoning] *requirement if ordinances of the local agency, adopted on or before December 31, 1992, impose standards that are equivalent to, or more restrictive than, the standards imposed by this chapter*." This means that any jurisdiction that already had vegetation clearance regulations that were equal to or more stringent than GC §51182, plus a Class B roofing minimum, could essentially ignore the VHFHSZ recommendations made by CDF. As a result, true hazards throughout the state were not necessarily identified pursuant to the Bates legislation. In fact, there are many areas in the state of California that qualify, according to established hazard assessment systems, as VHFHSZ, but are not defined as such according to the legal definitions contained in the statutes. This inconsistency has created a rift between jurisdictions in compliance with the Bates bill and those exempted from it. In essence, the negative perception of a VHFHSZ label by the public, the insurance industry and local policymakers has resulted in some undesirable repercussions for those jurisdictions that willingly complied with the mandate, while those outside the mandate have remained relatively unaffected, even though the actual fire hazard severity in the two areas may be the same.

Despite the recognized inconsistencies and political struggles associated with fire hazard zoning and enforcement of fire safe standards in the SRA and LRA, fire hazard assessment and defensible space around structures are still among the most effective ways to achieve fire hazard mitigation for protection of lives and property. Since 1996, the original LRA VHFHSZ identification maps have been available through the Teale Data Center at a minimal cost. Even though several maps are now out-of-date, upon passage of the Natural Hazard Disclosure (NHD) Act for wildfire via Assembly Bill 6X (Stats. 1997, Ch. 7) and Assembly Bill 1195 (Stats. 1998, Ch. 65), the OSFM published electronic versions of the maps at: http://www.ceres.ca.gov/planning/nhd. This was done after it became apparent that the public could not easily obtain the necessary zoning information from some local agencies for compliance with the new disclosure laws.

Since the enactment of NHD requirements for wildfire hazards in the LRA, coupled with the on-line posting of the state maps, the parties involved with disclosure transactions have begun to question the accuracy and consistency of the maps. As a result, many homeowners, fire officials, real estate agents and local planners are unsure about the legality of local changes to the LRA VHFHSZ boundaries. Currently, the SRA boundaries, also known as Wildland Fire Areas (WFA), are updated at least every five years by CDF, affecting some VHFHSZ boundaries in the process. However, no LRA updates or adoptions are currently reflected on the original VHFHSZ maps developed by CDF, and no VHFHSZ update process currently exists at the state level. According to GC §51181, CDF "*shall periodically review the areas in the state identified as very high fire hazard severity zones…and as necessary, shall make recommendations relative to very high fire hazards severity zones….*" The OSFM conducted the first five-year review and released its findings in a publication called *Wildland Fire Hazard Assessment* (CDF/CSFM, 1999). Regardless of a state review, local agencies are fully responsible to

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either adopt, reject, or amend the original CDF findings (GC §51179). However, if a local agency containing an identified VHFHSZ has taken no recorded action to either accept or reject the state map, the VHFHSZ must remain as identified on the map, to fulfill CDF responsibility and natural hazard disclosure regulations. Finally, since there are so many local jurisdictions, all of which can update their own VHFHSZ boundaries at any time, all changes to LRA VHFHSZ must be conducted at the local level. Another attempt by CDF to review and/or update LRA VHFHSZ under current law would be futile. It would constitute little if any improvement upon the existing state maps, and it would not have much if any effect on local agency enactment or enforcement of zoning laws or fire safe standards.

Local agencies understandably need a certain amount of autonomy to implement and enforce fire and life safety regulations in their communities. Each jurisdiction is unique, and, therefore, many local codes, implementation processes, and enforcement standards may substantially differ from each other. This local autonomy is supported by the authority and structure of the OSFM, which enables adoption of statewide minimum fire and life safety regulations, certification of fire safe materials, and publication of fire safety education materials. Local agencies can then use such standards and information to further their fire safe objectives without the need for extensive additional research and justification. We have the tools at the state level to identify fire hazards and mitigate losses to life and property. Many local jurisdictions have taken significant action to implement these and other tools, and have experienced their effectiveness in reducing wildfire severity and devastating losses. It is clear that although progress is being made statewide, much remains to be done. Cleanup legislation and new strategies for fire hazard assessment should be implemented, along with long-term federal, state and local funding for such programs.

California, with its ever-expanding urban-wildland interface, is a wildfire culture. Whether we like it or not, to adapt to our surroundings and survive, we must take precautions and make long-term plans to reduce the risks we face in our environment. No matter what Californians do, wildland fires will continue to ignite. The question is, do we have what it takes to save our homes and ourselves from this living threat? We have the tools: engineering, enforcement and education. Now let's use them together.

As the Fire Safe Planning Program Coordinator for the CDF Office of the State Fire Marshal, Melissa Frago possesses specialized knowledge about state and local fire hazard zoning and Natural Hazard Disclosure. She has authored and co-authored multiple publications in addition to instructing others about these and related subjects.

National Fire Conference

by Jean LaClair, staff services analyst, CDF Public Education Office

Sitting amongst over 1,000 fire folks from all over the nation listening to the opening presentations of the National Fire Conference 2000 in San Diego in November, I felt a little over-whelmed and found myself wondering what I was doing there and why I was among all of these fire experts.

After four days attending the California Interagency Fire Prevention concurrent session my apprehensions and questions were answered. The fire prevention concurrent session, consisted of such topics as: fire: yesterday, today and the 21st century; prevention: an emerging science; where we're headed; urban/wildland interface approach; producing measurable economic benefits for your organization using consumer "access" techniques; teaching fire prevention to children with puppets, clowns and fire PALS; how to ask for money without fainting: financing your programs and developing community support; fire education from a giant sequoia's perspective; fire prevention Hawaiian style; interactive media science CD burning issues; education online, connecting students and teachers with curriculum on the internet; education at the California State Fair; Generation Green education partnership; fire safe councils; firewise communities; California Fire Plan, getting the job done and does it work; and Smokey Bear in the next millennium. My role became very clear and the many tasks and purposes of my position as an assistant public education officer were renewed.

Absorbing everyone's varied charges in their jobs as fire and life safety educators, my ideas and duties were refreshed. No matter where we all worked across the United States or what agency we represented, our functions were basically the same … to spread the word about how to reduce unwanted, human-caused fire.

We learned marketing skills, new and innovative ways to get our messages across to the hard-to-reach. How our pieces in the puzzle in bridging the gap to educate the community stakeholders about their roles if/when fire occurs through local fire safe councils was discussed. The new technology in reaching more people, and accessing more information ourselves, through use of the internet became an obvious must. The NIMBY (not in my back yard) attitude must be taken seriously.

All in all, the four days spent in the workshop were very enlightening and I think all of the participants went back home with new ideas and determined to not let fire prevention education take a back seat any longer. Fire prevention is the responsibility of every person and we must teach folks survivable space so every person's home can be their castle! Would your home survive?

CDF means "Full-Service"

"Full-Service" describes CDF's ability to respond to any type of emergency or non-emergency situation when citizens directly protected by CDF require assistance.

Confined Space Rescue Training

by Steve Herzog, battalion chief, CDF Academy

The CDF Academy at Ione prepares firefighters for every type of emergency rescue response. Students receive over 30 hours of confined space rescue instruction including 22 hours of hands-on drill. Students at the Academy are trained how to use both improvised rescue tools such as ladders, rope and other materials commonly found on fire engines as well as the latest, most advanced "state-of-the-art" equipment including air respirator devices and commercial tripods.

CDF drill instructors from units all over the state assist the Ione staff in making sure that students are taught all the correct safety procedures and protocols.

The student pictured above is outfitted with self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) gear, full body harness, helmet and wildland gear. Prior to the student entering the confined space, safety measures including air monitoring, ventilation entry permit, and entrant retrieval systems will be put in place.

On the Cover

Reprinted with permission courtesy of the Chico Enterprise Record.

On the cover, CDF/Butte County Fire technical rescue team members Rob Cone, Greg McFadden, and Dan Reese rescue a construction worker from a confined space.

On September 13, 2000 rescue personnel were dispatched to Upper River Road near the Sacramento River where a bridge construction project was in progress. The worker was found 12 feet below ground level in a large culvert trapped between the steel re-bar and the side of the pipe. Rescue team members performed pre-entry requirements for a confined space prior to the worker being secured to a backboard, which was then fastened to a roof ladder before being extricated from the space. The construction worker was treated for minor burns to the back caused by the moist concrete and released from a local hospital.

Water Rescue

by Janet Marshall, fire prevention specialist II, Butte Unit

On August 8, 2000 just before noon, CDF Fire/Butte County Fire rescue engine 64 was called out to a boat vs. jetski accident on Lake Oroville. The victims, Dixon Police Chief Rick Fuller and his wife, Janet, were enjoying a jet ski ride on the lake east of the Bidwell Bar Bridge when a boat traveling at a high rate of speed struck the couple. When engine 64 arrived, Fire Apparatus Engineer Tony Brownell assumed the role of incident commander. E-64 Firefighters Scott Martinez and Joe Saunders boarded a Parks and Recreation boat with Assistant Chief John Hawkins and paramedics from Oroville Hospital Ambulance. The rescuers arrived at scene to find Chief Fuller still in the water and suffering from major internal injuries. Chief Hawkins was overheard prefacing the rescue with, "Come on, take your boots off - we're going to get wet on this one!" Chief Hawkins, along with Firefighters Martinez and Saunders, then entered the water fully clothed under their personal floatation devices, quickly packaged the patient and began medical treatment. They then transferred the patient to the boat where the medics began advanced life support measures.

Due to the serious nature of Chief Fuller's injuries, time was a critical element in this incident. Several factors made this rescue a success and contributed to the patient's survival. Stabilizing and transferring a seriously injured patient from deep water to a boat is an extremely difficult maneuver. The efforts of

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the rescue group under Chief Hawkins' hands-on guidance gave the patient a fighting chance for survival.

Chief Fuller was airlifted to Enloe Medical Center where a trauma team continued treatment for his injuries. Mrs. Fuller was transported by ground and treated for moderate injuries. Both have recovered and Chief Fuller made the trip from Dixon to the second annual "Real Heroes" breakfast in Chico. At the breakfast, 3rd District Assemblyman Sam Aanestad presented Chief Hawkins, FAE

CDF Assistant Chief John Hawkins talks about the rescue of Dixon Police Chief Rick Fuller. Chief Hawkins, FAE Tony Brownell, and Firefighters Tony Saunders and Joe Martinez came to the aid of Chief Fuller on Lake Oroville.

Brownell, Firefighter Martinez and Firefighter Saunders with certificates and a medal honoring them for their rescue effort. Chief Fuller expressed his appreciation to the firefighters and was thrilled to be able to meet his rescuers to thank them personally.

"We're honored to be recognized by the Legislature and the Red Cross for this rescue," stated Chief Hawkins, "but the greatest honor is seeing the result of this team effort is Chief Fuller's presence here today."

Shooting Incident

The call no one ever wants to recieve

by Tina Rose, fire prevention specialist II, Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit

On January 10, 2001 the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit Emergency Command Center (ECC) got the call that everyone hopes they will never receive. A lone gunman had attacked the Nevada County Mental Health Department in Nevada City.

Fire Captain Kevin Guerrero received the first 911 call at 11:30 a.m. The caller was a mental health employee who was frantic and hiding under her desk. She told Kevin there were bodies all over the place and she did not know if the gunman was still in the building. Putting all of his emergency medical dispatch skills to work he instructed her to try and remain calm, be as quiet as possible, and not to move from her location. He tried to get as much information from her while keeping her as safe as possible. Kevin stayed on the phone with this lady until a sheriff's deputy arrived and said she could hang up.

While Captain Guerrero was taking the dispatch information, Fire Apparatus Engineer Mike Marcucci immediately dispatched NYP-Nevada City Station 20 and the 49er Fire District. Fire Captain Curt Williges on engine 2384 responded, but because the scene was not secure he found himself conducting "scene containment" by closing the road. This assignment was no doubt "nerve- wracking", as no one knew who the gunman was, what he looked like or where he was.

Battalion Chief Rob Paulus was a part of the initial dispatch and enroute when he overheard the sheriff's office (SO) scanner traffic of multiple gunshot victims. He immediately ordered all available ambulances to the incident.

Then eight minutes later the second call came in. This next report was of another shooting incident just miles away in Grass Valley at the Lyon's Restaurant.

Chief Paulus, a CDF peace officer, was still enroute to the first call but would have to pass by the Lyon's Restaurant. Realizing that the SO was already committed, he diverted to the second call. Two CHP units and Paulus were first on scene at the restaurant. Each officer entered through various entrances, guns drawn and were able to secure the building. "People were under tables, food was still cooking on the stoves, smoke alarms were going off, and there was lots of broken glass everywhere" said Chief Paulus. He also found a man hiding in the women's bathroom. After a search he was found to have no weapons and to be a patron of the restaurant, not the gunman.

The ECC in the meantime realizing that these two small towns were being completely drawn down of law enforcement and ambulance resources, quickly ordered two additional ground ambulances out of Placer County, two air ambulances and requested CDF law enforcement assistance all move into Nevada County.

Division Chief (now Unit Chief) Tony Clarabut responded directly to the incident command post in Grass Valley. Upon his arrival the undersheriff requested CDF to provide law enforcement coverage for the county. CDF answered this call by immediately putting eight CDF peace officers in four units to cover the unincorporated areas of western Nevada County. They included Battalion Chief's Jim Hoffmier, John Ellis, Paul Kenneweg, Rob Paulus, Greg Guyan and Kate Dargan, plus Fire Captain Specialist's Mark Koenig

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and Ken Hale. While Chief Hoffmier was assigned to the SO dispatch center he found their dispatchers overwhelmed with radio traffic and telephone calls. He was able to get CDF dispatcher, Fire Captain Mike Deme, who overheard traffic on the scanner and responded to the ECC, to report to the SO dispatch center and help out. Captain Deme enabled the SO dispatchers to focus on their field units while he answered the phones and took down the numerous reports from callers.

By 7 p.m. the Sheriff's Department had received information that assured them that the suspect was at a residence approximately one mile away from our NYP Smartsville Station 40. The SO asked that Station 40 be used as the staging area for the Nevada and Placer County SWAT teams and asked also that Medic 44 with Fire Apparatus Engineer/Medic Clay Thomas, and Firefighter's Dennis Bertolucci and David Schiavo be moved to Station 40 for standby. Fire Captain Ken Hale provided additional security for this operation and assisted the SO as they planned the ultimate apprehension of the suspect. Station Captain Mike Sinclair was instrumental in providing logistical support for law enforcement while they occupied the station.

Another CDFer who offered up his services was Forester II Gary Brittner, who, as the unit chaplain, made himself available to Nevada County for crisis counseling.

According to Chief Clarabut, "The ECC was in the zone, thinking ahead, making all the right notifications and generally just staying on top of things as they occurred." The command center personnel dispatched an additional 37 incidents during this time along with answering hundreds of phone calls related to the shootings, and "they pulled it off flawlessly." Clarabut also noted that "there were by my count at least 23 CDF and Schedule C employees involved in the incident and each of them performed as a true professional."

The suspect was taken into custody at about 9 p.m. and the nine and a half hour incident was finally over. The tragic day ended with three people receiving fatal gunshot wounds, another three receiving critical injuries, and an entire community stunned.

Once again the CDF showed itself to be a "full service" department, whether it be a call for firefighters, medics, command personnel, peace officers or chaplains, we always answer the call.

Missing Person
Following an Instinct

Gianni Kiresich was concerned for his son Jeffrey's safety. He awoke the morning of February 1, 2001, and became concerned that his son was not home. The last thing Mr. Kiresich knew was that his son left the Visalia area at approximately 2 a.m. to return to Three Rivers and had not been heard from since. Mr. Kiresich drove from his Three Rivers home back along the route his son would have traveled, while a family friend called the California Highway Patrol, Visalia Police Department and Kaweah Delta Hospital searching for information. Mr. Kiresich traveled along Lake Kaweah searching the many curves and ravines. His travels took him down to the Tulare County/Lemon Cove Fire Station where he met Fire Apparatus Engineer Steve Ballew. Steve assisted Mr. Kiresich in initiating a missing person's report with the Tulare County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Kiresich returned home to await any additional information.

FAE Ballew had a good knowledge of the local area because he had lived in the Three Rivers area most of his life, and had a "gut feeling" that he should go and look for the younger Kiresich. Ballew had looked in several areas already, but happened to stop at a ravine across from the second boat ramp on Highway 198. At this point he spotted the vehicle, approximately 40 feet over the road embankment, and observed Jeffrey lying out of the vehicle in a shallow creek bed.

Ballew called for assistance and went to Jeffrey's aid. Jeffrey did not have any major broken bones, but was in a life threatening state of hypothermia. Jeffrey's core body temperature had fallen to 90 degrees. Ballew obtained Jeffrey's vitals and initiated C-spine precautions. When the ground ambulance arrived Jeffrey was transported to Kaweah Delta Hospital.

Sadly, due to long term exposure to the elements and complications due to the accident, Jeffrey passed away on February 7. Not all rescues result in lives-saved, but CDFers always give 100 percent.

Prescribed Burn
Expect the Unexpected

by Jackie Scoggin, battalion chief, San Benito-Monterey Unit

On September 29, 2000, the San Benito-Monterey Unit burned Phase I (1000 acres) of the Boekenoogen Ranch prescribed burn. The Boekenoogen Ranch is located north of Carmel Valley Road in Monterey County. In the course of a black line firing operation a fire whirl occurred, causing vehicle damage and one minor injury.

As predicted, burn day weather was mild with temperatures ranging from 70 to 80 degrees; winds on the ridge tops were expected to blow

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from the north and northeast at five to 15 mphs. Humidity was predicted to vary between 20 and 30 percent. Ten- hour fuel moisture varied from sevento nine percent. Predictions were generally accurate throughout the day, providing near perfect conditions for the burn. The only deviations were wind gusts on the southeast flank of the fire, at times reaching 20 miles per hour, and at midday, the humidity level dropped to 18 percent.

The southeast section consisted of four to six foot chaparral. Elevation in the area ranged from a peak of 3,970 feet and dropped into the Paloma Creek at 3,500 feet. The distance from the peak to the creek drainage was roughly 3/4 of a mile, with several areas of the fire line dropping steeply making access difficult for both firefighters and equipment. Safety zones were located throughout this area in approximately 150 to 300 foot intervals. On the steepest part safety zones were located closer to each other.

A black line, approximately 100-feet wide, was successfully completed along the length of the target area. The firing plan called for deepening the black line with a helitorch. Helicopters 406 and 404 worked the area with aerial firing and water drops. Division Supervisor Steve Robertson reported strong gusts of wind causing spot fires over the line. These spot fires were extinguished quickly.

At 1200 hours a radio report came from Operations Officer Steve Benoit. Roughly 100 yards above a safety zone a fire whirl had formed. The fire whirl reached close to 100 feet in height and began moving downhill towards the safety zone. Benoit reported winds so strong that it was difficult to stand.

Safety Officer Jim Dellamonica and Line Emergency Medical Technician Ron Lemos waited inside of the

safety zone. Dellamonica moved the utility vehicle he was driving further into the safety zone in anticipation of the approaching fire whirl. The fire whirl jumped the black line and the four dozer-blade wide fuel break, causing a spot fire. Just prior to the spot fire, Lemos parked his all-terrain vehicle (ATV) in the safety zone and walked towards Dellamonica, planning to take refuge with Dellamonica inside of the vehicle. When the windstorm hit, Lemos was pushed from behind into the side of the utility vehicle and had to hold on to the passenger side mirror to keep from being blown down by the forceful wind. The vehicle was lifted a few inches off the ground by the wind force and balanced for several seconds on the two driver side wheels. Dellamonica saw the ATV, which was parked 50 feet away from the utility vehicle, lift from the ground and fly upside down towards Lemos. The ATV crashed into the side of the utility vehicle crushing the rear quarter panel. Lemos narrowly missed being hit by the ATV, but did suffer a minor ankle injury.

From the first sighting of the fire whirl to the end of the windstorm an estimated three to five minutes passed. Fire behavior predictions gave no indication of the possibility of fire whirls or any other extreme fire behavior. Firefighters who witnessed the incident agreed that

The winds from the fire whirl above flipped the CDF ATV (at right) on its side and into the CDF utility vehicle. Photos by Fire Captain Steve Benoit, San Benito-Monterey Unit.

given the general stability of weather conditions they could not have anticipated such radical fire behavior.

This incident sent a clear message to firefighters on the prescribed burn, **EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!** Firefighters monitored WATCHOUT conditions and applied the FIREORDERS and LACES. As a result, everyone went home safe that evening and a little wiser for the experience.

Vehicle Rescues

Learning the latest techniques

Article/ photo by Tina Amendola Madera Tribune

"The Anatomy of a Car" was the focus of a one day course held at Madera City Fire Station #6 to train area firefighters in the proper technique for rescuing passengers from vehicles involved in a crash. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) Battalion Chief Rich Stover from Tulare County instructed the group of approximately 50 state, county and city firefighters.

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CDF fire captain and training officer Jon Brothers said that Stover has extensive knowledge of auto extrication techniques.

"[Stover] is very well-schooled in auto extrication of all different types of vehicles," he said. "He's very innovative in that he has developed some of his own tools to help provide some of the functions that otherwise weren't available."

Brothers explained that the majority of auto accidents are mainly due to excess speed.

"If you talk to any law enforcement officer who patrols the highways, they'll tell you that it's always speed, he said. "Just a few miles per hour difference in the speed limit that a person should've been traveling adds a huge amount of devastation, in and above what they would've actually experienced."

The course covered topics such as vehicle construction, air bag and restraint systems, glass removal and how to do various extrication techniques safely.

CDF Training Officer Moe Fleming said the course is held a minimum of once a year to offer the training to all new firefighters.

"We continually get newer people that come into the job, and we can't always reach them all," he said. "There are so many things that we have to do, we can't fit them all into a 12-month period as often as we'd like. We try to do one specialized class a month."

Fleming said that the many types of safety restraints built into vehicles can be a hindrance, or even a fire hazard, to firefighters trying to rescue a passenger.

"The new innovations that have come out to protect people in the event of a crash like side impact bags, or roll bars in convertibles, can become hazards to us as rescuers," he said. "If an air bag hasn't deployed because of the way the vehicle was hit, we could inadvertently activate that air bag because we're cutting and pushing dashboards away, hurting ourselves or the patient."

Attendees of the course were able to get hands-on training with basic to modern types of tools, such as the Jaws of Life, on several types of damaged vehicles.

Tulare County CDF Battalion Chief Rich Stover explains the correct way to remove window glass from a car with a passenger inside.

Brothers said although the course gives firefighters training that they may not be in a situation to use every day, it will still be valuable for them down the line.

"More people have been killed on Highway 41, between Highway 145 and the river, in the last year than I can ever remember in the last five years," he said. "Bringing a class like this together helps everybody to learn the tools and gain the confidence to be able to use them in an emergency situation."

Another Save By CDF

by Juliana Gilman, office technician, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit

Actually, by the second day of First Responder Refresher training, I had been saved a total of six times! Here is my story…

I am an office technician in the Humboldt-Del Norte Unit in Fortuna dividing my time between the Safety-Training Unit and the Fleet Maintenance Shop. It's fun and interesting working in such varied programs in the unit, and I'm always looking for new challenges. I'm fortunate to work with two of the best HUU staff, Fire Equipment Manager Arny Bolkcom and Battalion Chief Fred Flores.

So, when Safety-Training Battalion Chief Flores asked if I would assist at the upcoming First Responder Refresher class on November 7 and 8, 2000, I readily agreed. The class was held at the Redwood Creek Battalion located on the coast in Trinidad, some 40 miles north of the Humboldt-Del Norte Unit Headquarters.

Trinidad is the sort of place one goes for short vacations to walk in the sand as you gaze across Highway 101 at the giant redwood trees. In other words, it is remarkably scenic and naturally beautiful. The CDF station in Trinidad is right there, in the midst of the tall, ancient trees, primeval ferns, and minutes from the ocean. Rough duty…

The first part of each day was spent reviewing emergency medical conditions, and the procedures required to provide emergency medical attention. I learned new and unusual acronyms designed to assist the first responder in ascertaining medical history, etc. These acronyms are mnemonic in nature, providing instant recall when needed. An example would be **MADAM:**

Medical problems
Age
Doctors care
Allergies
Medications

Battalion Chief Don Brooks,

*See **SAVE**, page 32*

***SAVE**: from page 31*

Crescent City Battalion, shared a great teaching tool that captured our interest while teaching basic anatomy: Medical Jeopardy (imagine the TV version). It works like this: Answer: Number of bones in the human body. Question: What are 206? Chief Brooks has been involved in EMS with CDF for nearly 25 years and still manages to present the information with enthusiasm and humor.

After lunch on the first day it was time for the "scenarios", or the hands-on application of what was learned in the morning portion of the class. This is where I come in…my opportunity to be saved by CDF! Remember, these were only simulations.

Day One Scenarios took place on a stretch of coast called Moonstone Beach (how cool is that?). My instructions from Chief Flores and Captain Charlie Ross were relatively simple. I had been climbing on large boulders and lost my footing, falling about 20-30 feet to the shore below. When I landed, in a somewhat crunched position, I was to have heard something in my thigh snap, injuring my wrist and feeling pain in my back. When my first responders found me, they immediately reassured me, asking significant questions that would help them help me, such as: 1) my name and age, 2) how the injury occurred, 3) where I felt pain, and above all, made me feel I was in capable hands. In the midst of my pain and confusion, they even made me smile.

My first responders were HUU Fire Captains Dave Short, Bruce Lohman, Gary Dean, and Heavy Fire Equipment Operator Rich Wallace. Professionalism and capability were the drill as the tools of their trade were applied for my safety. These tools were in the form of a cervical collar, nasal cannulae to provide oxygen, webbed straps to stabilize limbs, a Sager traction splint, and a backboard called a KED. When I was properly "packaged," I couldn't move a muscle.

Day Two Scenarios were held in and around the Trinidad Fire Station. These scenarios focused on emergencies surrounding asphyxiation, electrical shock, and diabetic coma. The on-scene first responders this day were HUU Fire Captains Eric Fry, Del Hoisington, Ron Samuelson, and Forester I Mike Johnson. There was an element of drama during the asphyxiation scenario when I was discovered in a dark, closed garage behind the wheel of the family truck, despondent. Captain Lohman gently lifted me out of the vehicle into the fresh air, calling my name softly, bringing me back to consciousness, telling me it would be okay.

My first responders told me I made a good "victim" during the simulation exercises because I am small and easy to carry. The only complaint I heard was a difficulty in "blanching" (pressing the cuticle area to see white) my toes to determine circulation.

It seems polished nails sabotage this effort.

All things considered, I learned a great deal about emergency medical issues, realized how crucial it is to stay calm during a medical emergency, and gained insight into my own reactions if I were in a serious medical situation. I know I would want to be in the hands of CDF first responders-they are the best!

A Welcome Change
Intermountain Conservation Camp

by the Intermountain Conservation Camp Staff, Lassen-Modoc Unit

"None of us knows what the next change is going to be, what unexpected opportunity is just around the corner, waiting a few months or a few years to change all the tenor of our lives."
-Kathleen Norris

Intermountain Camp has undergone many changes in the last several years, both in appearance and operationally. We are excited about the things we have achieved and the changes ahead, and we wish to share our accomplishments with the rest of the department.

In the last year, four fire captains, two heavy fire equipment operators and a new division chief have joined the Intermountain team roster contributing new skills and knowledge to the cache of experience that already exists. Last July we lost our coach and general manager, Division Chief Vince Wall to the Redding Area Office as deputy chief, operations. It was through his vision and commitment to camp that many of these changes occurred.

Intermountain Camp has a fresh new look. Many of the buildings have new siding and windows. The grounds are neatly manicured and new split rail fences surround the family visiting area. New cabinets and countertops have been added to our administrative office providing a more organized and professional work environment.

Our exercise room is well equipped with step machines, stationary bicycles, treadmills and a multigym for physical training - a responsibility we take very seriously.

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CAMP: *from page 32*

New siding and windows have spruced up many of the camp's buildings.

Our previous welding shop has been converted into a complete automotive shop, capable of servicing the camp's crew carrying vehicles, the station's engines, and all utility vehicles in the Bieber Battalion.

Our welding shop has been moved to a different building dedicated solely to product fabrication. Our welding program has flourished and we are proud of the quality products we have available to the department and other state agencies.

One of the products we provide is the CDF approved hose roller and we recently began fabricating a staging area wash table that collapses for easy storage. We have an extensive catalog available on compact disc for ease of ordering and now have a web site at www.intermountaincamp.com for ordering on line.

One of the most exciting and powerful changes that has contributed to our success, is the use of the team concept. Each team member has a specific function and each function is an equal and integral part of camp operations. We share information openly and eagerly support one another in our responsibilities. We developed our own camp vision and mission statement and created a set of values to which we are all committed. We proudly display these documents next to the department's mission, vision and values.

We have streamlined our paperwork processes for requesting and tracking crew work and welding orders. We take great pride in the conservation work and fire protection services we provide the citizen's of California. We are actively involved in several fire prevention projects including the Tionesta Fuel Break, the McLeod Fuel Break, and

Intermountain fire prevention projects include this fuel break around the community of Tionesta.

the Cinder Cone Fuel Break for the Bureau of Land Management.

The Shasta County Sheriff's Office recently added a much-needed helipad to their Burney Substation, providing a landing pad for life flight helicopters. It took eight years to get this project organized and funded. Intermountain crews were an essential part of the success of this project. They prepared the forms, positioned the rebar, and

Intermountain crew #3 works on a helicopter pad for the Shasta County Sheriff's Office.

poured 40 yards of cement, working closely with the sheriff's office, the California Correctional Center vocational instructors, and volunteers from the community of Burney.

We have a solid relationship with our Department of Corrections counterparts, and recognize how important it is to maintain open communications between the two departments. We consider them part of our team. We work closely with other state, federal and local government agencies, including California Departments of Transportation, Fish and Game, Parks and Recreation as well as U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

We are proud of our achievements as individuals and as a "Team". We have come to view change with enthusiasm, knowing that along with change comes opportunity and growth. We try to be pioneers in all that we do, eagerly stepping forward to meet the challenges given to us and representing the department to the best of our ability. The "Changing Face of CDF" will bring new ideas and possibilities for the road ahead. We plan to be among those leading the way.

Lights

Install energy efficient fluorescent bulbs. A compact fluorescent light (CFL) uses 75 percent less electricity to produce the same amount of light as an incandescent. The CFL will last about 10,000 hours as opposed to the 600 to 1,000 hour average life of an incandescent. Replacing a 100 watt incandescent with its equivalent 25 watt CFL will save more than $90 per bulb in electricity costs over the CFL's 10,000 hour lifetime.

Carmel Highlands

A lot of activity in seven square miles

by Reno DiTullio, unit chief, San Benito-Monterey Unit

Surrounding a restored 1950 jeep with a long history in the district are (standing) from L to R: Fire Captain Shaun Jewett, Fire Apparatus Engineer Mark Mondragon, Fire Captain Rick Scott, Fire Captain Cindy Nagai, Fire Captain Colin MacDonald, and Fire Apparatus Engineer Dennis Hartshorn. Kneeling are from L to R: Firefighter Russell San Filippo, Fire Apparatus Engineer Chris Hartzell, and Firefighter Johnny Chun.

Last July a cooperative fire protection services agreement (Schedule A) with the Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District went into effect. Seven permanent and two seasonal Carmel Highlands firefighters became state employees with CDF.

The Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District (CHFPD) was organized in 1932. It is located in the north end of Monterey County, approximately one mile south of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, along California Scenic Route 1. The district covers the area from south of Mal Paso Creek to north of Carmel Meadows (Point Lobos State Park is located within the district). It serves seven square miles with a population of 2,900. There are approximately 650 single-family dwellings and eight commercial occupancies. The district provides fire suppression and emergency medical response, ocean rescue, fire prevention, information/education, and fire protection planning to all areas within the jurisdiction. Engine staffing is a minimum of three personnel augmented by a highly motivated and dedicated volunteer company. Other than becoming familiar with CDF policy and procedures, and battalion operating procedures, the biggest challenge for the district this year is the completion of a new $1.4 million fire station. The new station is scheduled for completion in July/August of 2001.

The terrain within the district varies from sea level to approximately 1,500 feet above sea level. Very steep, narrow, paved and unpaved roads serve property located above canyons along the upper Highlands' ridges. The fuel type is generally intermixed coastal grass, brush, and Monterey pine forest. In the critical dry summer fire season, the CHFPD has significant areas that are vulnerable to watershed fires. The CHFPD has experienced large wildland fires in the past and the potential is there for similar fires in the future. An ongoing fuels clearance program and strong information/education program has helped to keep ignitions and fire size to a minimum. All of the CHFPD is located within state responsibility area.

In addition to the wildfire treat, the five miles of coastline within the district present an additional problem, emergencies occurring in and around the ocean. In 1990, the district developed a water rescue program. The water rescue program provides for response to coastal incidents by CHFPD personnel utilizing the district's powered inflatable rescue boat (IRB). The IRB is housed at Point Lobos State Park at the Whaler's Cove boat launch area. Immediate response to ocean incidents with the IRB has dramatically reduced the time victims are exposed to the 50° - 55° temperatures found in the coastal waters off Carmel Highlands. The U.S. Coast Guard responds with a cutter from Monterey and helicopter from Alameda. While these are an effective means for accomplishing an ocean rescue, both resources have extended response times to the Carmel Bay area.

Office Equipment

Turn off computers and any other office equipment when not in use, especially overnight and weekends. This practice costs nothing and can potentially save $44 per year, per computer, depending on what you pay per kilowatt-hour.

CDF Hosts National Interagency Short Haul Rescue Workshop

Janet Marshall, fire prevention specialist II, Butte Unit

On February 27, rescuers from throughout the U.S. and Canada gathered in Sacramento to attend the 2001 Interagency Short Haul Convention hosted this year by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Assistant Deputy Director of Fire Protection Jim Wright was the keynote speaker at this year's event. Chief Wright addressed the international audience and explained how the department entered into the short haul arena.

"We initiated our short haul rescue program in 1997 to augment CDF's full-service emergency response role," stated Chief Wright. "It is first and foremost a method of extraction for our own firefighters engaged in the high risk business of wildland firefighting and flood operations. CDF helitack crews have undergone extensive training and we now have nine teams throughout the state available for short haul rescue operations anywhere they are needed."

The conference agenda included speakers from various agencies throughout the U.S. and Canada. Topics ranged from the International Commission on Alpine Rescue's annual report to a presentation entitled "Survivability of Jettisoned Human Loads" which held the attention of the men and women who literally hang beneath helicopters in the line of duty. Assistant Chief John Hawkins, who consistently provides informative, dynamic and extremely entertaining presentations, spoke on air rescue interface with ground based personnel.

Another highlight of the conference was a hosted tour of CDF's Aviation Management Unit at Mather Field. Static displays of CDF's Alma Copter 106, Lemoore Naval Air Station's UH1N and Butte County Sheriff Department's OH 58 provided conference attendees and the media the opportunity to see a variety of short haul set ups. The crews were on hand to explain each resource's capabilities and equipment.

Sierra Area Chief Bob Martines provided closing comments which was appropriate given that Chief Martines is one of the "founding fathers" of the CDF short haul program, providing support for the program since its inception.

Mark Magnuson, the Chairman for the NWCG Interagency Helicopter Short Haul Working Group had this to say about the event:

"The 2001 Helicopter Short Haul Convention and Workshop was a huge success. Any time we can bring together rescuers from a variety of different federal, state, local agencies, and industry to share information, discuss lessons learned, and toss about new ideas for safer and more efficient operations, good things happen. Hats off to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for an outstanding job in hosting this event."

The Continuing Challenge

by Alisha Herring, secretary, CDF Public Affairs Office

The 11th Annual Hazardous Material Emergency Response (HazMat) workshop was once again held in Sacramento last September. The focus of the workshop was to prepare fire, law and public safety officials how to respond safely to hazardous material incidents in "The Next Millennium". Solutions to problems relating to hazardous material emergencies were offered through hands-on training, state of the art equipment and specialized vendor booths. The workshop brought together over 100 instructors and 900 emergency responders, including CDF, from all over the nation, including Guam and the Pacific Rim.

The four-day conference offered 100 different workshops, giving training in areas of terrorism, contamination, confined space rescue, and hazardous materials, along with vendor booths and demos displaying the latest in equipment. Along with the workshops, a variety of activities were held, including the 8th annual "Name that Unknown" and HazMat Olympics.

Mark your calendars for the 12th Annual Continuing Challenge Workshop that will take place September 4-7, 2001.

It was a wild sight during the "small tool pickup" Olympics event. This event simulates the restricted hand movement responders will encounter and have to compensate for, when wearing the appropriate gear, plus the visual impairment caused by the glare of the sunlight and movement of the water.

What is the CDF University?

by Ree McLaughlan, administrative training manager, CDF Academy

The CDF University is a centralized strategic umbrella for the education and development of California's Department of Forestry and Fire Protection workforce. The university style training approach has been designed to plan for the "Changing Face of CDF" and enhance CDF as a "Total Force" organization. The concept was developed by the *Changing Face of CDF Training and Management Development Committee* to plan for succession and transitional change due to increasing retirements at critical positions throughout the world class organization.

The purpose of the CDF University is to increase CDF's value to the state's taxpayers by strengthening the capacities of its employees to learn and lead in the face of a rapidly changing environment. CDF has shifted the training focus and education efforts from one time training events to creating a continuous learning culture. Over the next three years, CDF will significantly change what and how training takes place in the organization. Training delivery will be accomplished through both traditional structured training as well as alternative and innovative distance learning methodologies.

The CDF University provides a way to reinforce and perpetuate core competencies, values, and learning philosophy. The virtual infrastructure establishes a progressive promotional path for leadership and career development. Components of the CDF University include an oversight body, general curriculum, program schools of learning, and leadership and executive colleges.

- Oversight for the design and development of the university is directed by the CDF Executive Advisory Council and the CDF Statewide Training Committee.
- General curriculum for all employees focuses on skills, knowledge and abilities that cross all program areas.
- Career specific program schools of learning have been developed around CDF's core functions of fire protection, resource management and management services.
- Leadership, Chief Officer and Executive Colleges are designed to develop CDF managers and leaders.

The university structure mirrors best practices used by public and private sector training programs. Corporate universities are coming into use worldwide as a tool for providing professionals with critical knowledge and learning methodologies. The shelf life of knowledge has radically shortened. In disciplines like communication, financial management, and information technology the degree earned two years ago may be outdated. Continuous learning is more important than ever. Employees need greater access to updating their skills and knowledge to meet current and future job requirements.

The CDF University is a collaborative effort to provide a learning and training vehicle for enhanced employee learning and development. An online distance learning website for the CDF University has just rolled out onto the workforce internal intranet in a pilot phase. The university style approach to learning management is designed to integrate all of CDF's training elements including the CDF Academy, statewide, region and unit training programs, as well as emphasize the creation of a continuous learning culture.

Applying Make-up to CDF's Changing Face

by Del Albright, unit chief, Tuolumne-Calaveras

If you're a young person coming up in CDF, or even a soon to be old-timer, what I'm about to tell you in this article is the secret of life. Well, maybe not of life; but it's pretty darn important stuff! In fact, if you work for me, there's not much more important.

As we watch the really old-timers (baby-boomers) hit the retirement door, something happens to them that doesn't happen in many other organizations. They really begin to hone in on what they're leaving behind and who've they trained to replace them. Interesting. I've worked in many other state and federal agencies, and I've never seen this phenomenon occur like it does in CDF. It's wonderful. CDFers care about other CDFers and about this department.

It's also unique to our department that there are so many of you (young and old) who realize early on in your career that part of your job is to train your subordinates to replace you; to leave behind a legacy that will carry your touch long after you're gone. This truly separates a good manager/supervisor from one still learning.

Ok, you ask: so what's the secret of life, Del? It's a two part answer.

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First, you have to know what you want out of life. And second, you have to be able to express it. Sounds simple, huh? Well, it works. And what has this to do with putting make-up on CDF's "Changing Face"? Aw, here's the catch and the part where we have to roll up our sleeves. It's called setting expectations and having objectives.

If you want the people you come in contact with to "be" or act a certain way, then they've got to know that. Very few of us are mind readers. You've got to tell people what you expect. This goes beyond a job description. It's what you expect, daily, routinely, out of your subordinates and other relationships.

The only fair way to treat anyone in a working environment is to tell them exactly what's expected of them, in writing, up front. Every supervisor (FAE to UC) in TCU has written "expectations" that they give to every subordinate. There is no confusion on anyone's part as to what's expected of them.

Unless you want to do everything yourself, the next thing to perfect is the art of having objectives. Many of you fire-breathers know about setting objectives on an incident. Well, it's not that different in every day work life. If you can clearly articulate what it is that you want done (not HOW, but WHAT), then it's way easier for folks to get it done to your satisfaction (and meet your expectations).

I believe it's time for many of us to revisit how we manage and supervise; and re-adopt some of these principles.

Remember the first step to solving a problem is: clearly define the problem. Well, the first step to getting folks to do something to your satisfaction is to be able to clearly define what you want. Telling someone to "fix it!" is not an objective. On the other hand, when I tell my admin officer to "get our CalCard paperwork in on time and get region off my back!", now that's an objective (smile).

Seriously a good objective will address possibly who, what, and when; but NOT how. When someone on my staff asks me what I'd like to do about a particular problem, I begin my sentence with: "My objective is...." You'll be surprised, if you haven't tried this, at how clean your operation can become when you set objectives and tell folks what you expect.

For a supervisor/manager there can be no greater subordinate development tool than giving someone a job and staying out of the way while they do that job. Additionally, there can be no greater learning tool than making mistakes. But so many of us get wrapped up in getting something done, or meeting some crazy deadline, that we forget the basic human needs of those folks who work for us. People need to feel needed. They need to feel a sense of accomplishment and productivity. It's ok to make mistakes if we learn from them. And people need to be recognized for what they do. But it's only fair that "what they do" be clearly understood and articulated by their supervisor (at all levels).

In order to apply make-up to this "Changing Face" business, we've all got to be thinking about those folks coming up behind us. It's never too early to start training your replacement. We've got to give them the tools to carry-on what the old-timers have started; and the ability to adapt to a changing world.
Your job is to provide a working environment that allows people to achieve those basic human needs mentioned above. By having written expectations and setting clear objectives, we can achieve those things, and our CDF mission is easily accomplished while our CDF family will be healthy.

Adjusting to retirement

by Brian Weatherford, retired unit chief, Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit

Many of us have retired in the last few years and many more will be retiring soon. Recently, one of my friends asked me what to expect when he retires, and I wasn't sure what to say. After thinking about it awhile, I guess there are quite a few things that I have learned from retirement (so far) that might be helpful to others.

Readjust your body clock. One of the first things to do is to establish a new schedule (i.e. body rhythm) and stick to it as much as you can. Get up at the same time each day, eat meals at scheduled times, block out times during the week for recurring chores. Get enough sleep at night, but don't feel guilty about taking a short nap if you feel like you need one. Take your vitamins and medications and go to the doctor and dentist when you are supposed to. Exercise regularly, but don't over do it and wind up on injured reserve. Keep yourself in good enough health to collect those retirement checks for many years. Set aside regular times each week for hobbies, yard work, house cleaning, etc. If you have one favorite hobby (fishing, golf, cards, etc.) set aside one or two days each week dedicated to enjoying your hobby.

Establish new turf. If your spouse is retiring at the same time, you have a perfect opportunity to jointly redefine your turf at home. Be sensitive to the needs of your part-

*See, **RETIREMENT** page 38*

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ner for appropriate space to pursue her favorite activities and periods of peace and quiet. If you move to a new (usually smaller) house, this is the perfect time to make sure you get your wood shop and she gets her sewing room (or vice versa), so you can both enjoy your hobbies without tripping over each other. If your spouse has been a homemaker while you chased fires or harassed loggers, remember that you are invading her turf now that you will be staying home. Be sensitive to her space and time needs.

Share the chores as well as the space. If your spouse is still working, you need to assume a majority share of the household chores. Once you get organized and have time to practice you will find that doing the laundry, washing dishes, sweeping and mopping don't take as much time as you feared they would, and doing them scores you big bonus points with your spouse. Sharing the cooking chores can give you a chance to make your favorite dishes more often, and helps add variety to home cooking. By all means go out to dinner once in a while, but mind your budget. If you are both no longer working full time, each of you should assume responsibility for the chores you enjoy (or at least don't mind) and evenly share the responsibility for the chores neither of you cares for.

Anticipate additional expenses. Two costs that are sure to increase after retirement are home energy costs and your motor vehicle fuel bill. Since you won't be at work using the state's lights, heating and air conditioning 10-12 hours a day, your household gas and electric bills are going to go up. Similarly, if you have been using a state car for the last ten years, be prepared for a bigger gas/diesel bill now that you have to run all over town in your monster truck. If you plan to travel a lot in retirement, learn how to shop for bargains on airline tickets, cruise packages, etc. Be sure to set aside enough money to cover the extra income taxes on that nice cash out present you got from the state.

Maintain personal relationships. You undoubtedly have many good friends from your career in CDF, but it is easy for those relationships to slip once one or more of you retire. Try to maintain contact with your core group of friends from work. Sharing a golf game, fishing or hunting trip, an evening of dinner and a movie, a camping or ski trip once in a while helps keep the ties that bind firm. Attend the other folks' retirement parties, and by all means join the local group of retirees who get together monthly for old geezer's breakfasts. This allows you to keep up with some of the gossip and provides an audience for your criticism of how the new administration is messing everything up. This is some of the cheapest therapy you can get.

Stay busy. Everybody I knew who was retired always told me they were surprised at how busy they were all the time. "I don't know when I had time to work" is a common theme. This part is true, there is plenty to do in your life after CDF, and staying busy is one of the secrets to enjoying retirement. Some people may want to start a second career, others may be interested in a part time job, and still others may want to just take it easy. Many people enjoy traveling so much that they become full time RVers, wandering the continent in small packs. Whichever new lifestyle you chose, make sure you go into it with your eyes wide open, prepared to make whatever adjustments are required for success.

Volunteer for something. While I personally don't recommend taking on another full time job, a part-time job doing something that you are really interested in or always wanted to try can help keep you in touch with the real world. If you don't want to work at all, volunteer for community activities supported by your church or service club. If you don't already belong to a local service club, now is the perfect time to join. Help build houses for Habitat for Humanity, volunteer to staff the local library or hospital, coach or umpire in a kids sports league, etc. If you don't already have an expensive, time-consuming hobby like golf or fishing, look for a new activity that you think might be fun and allow you to meet new people. Take a class in cabinet making, photography, auto restoration, or whatever turns you on at the local community college. Spend more time with your family. Savor the role of parent/grandparent and give your offspring the time you couldn't afford with them when you were "saving the world from holocaust and destruction." Happy retirement!

CDF Workload Study

To identify the excessive workload placed upon our field level fiscal, personnel, and business service employees, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection will undertake a two-part (short-term and long-term) workload study. The purpose of this study is to document and support CDF's belief that field level administrative workload has increased significantly over the past decade while the number of field level fiscal, personnel, and business service employees has remained the same. The results of this analysis will be submitted as recommendations to decision makers for workload relief.

To carry out this project, our project sponsors, Deputy Director Elaine Vann, Region Chiefs Tim

*See, **WORKLOAD** page 39*

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Turner and Dave Driscoll, have appointed an executive committee and an expert/peer group. The executive committee, comprised of Roger Desrosiers, Kathy Noia, Rich Schell, Steve Sunderland and Mike Watkins, will oversee and manage the project (Kathy Noia has retired and Sharon Adamson took her place on the committee). This committee will provide project oversight and guidance, identify and agree upon the areas of concentration, collect the information for the short-term study, prepare the data collection tools for the long-term study and address any issues that arise.

The expert peer group, comprised of Jim Barta, Ken McLean, Marlene Hill, Melinda Schilling, and Ron Vandervolgen, will help identify workload drivers, update task activities and descriptions from a 1987 study, estimate the frequency and duration of the activities, and provide feedback to the executive committee on the long-term data collection objectives and tools. The expert peer group will act as technical advisors to the executive committee throughout the project.

Steve Hagerty, a Pricewaterhouse Coopers consultant, will serve as an advisor to the executive committee. Hagerty will help define the short and long-term analytical framework and approach, identify the data needed for the analysis, help develop the workload metrics that measure or reflect changes to the administrative workload, analyze the data for historical or other trends, and prepare a workload analysis report using data collected by the team.

To prepare a compelling recommendation for change and make the best use of Pricewaterhouse Coopers' involvement, the project has been divided into a short-term study and a long-term study. The short-term study, which focused on the personnel services and was based primarily on historical data, and expert peer group time and duration estimates, was completed in March by Pricewaterhouse Coopers. The long-term study commenced in March 2001 and involves the primary collection of data in regard to the frequency and duration of fiscal, personnel, and business service activities. This primary collection of data should diminish any concerns control agencies may have about the time and duration estimates noted in the March 30, 2001 report.

The success of this project lies in large part on CDF's commitment to this project and our ability as a team to collect valuable information. Recognizing the demands placed upon all of us, we have asked the executive committee to prepare data collection tools that are simple to use yet yield valuable information. These tools, to be used for the long-term study, will be tested with the expert peer group before they are rolled out to the selected units.

In closing, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's administrative staff has long struggled to keep up with the workload created by bargaining unit 8 mandates, an increase in capital outlay projects, and many other unfunded mandates without a corresponding increase in support staff. Your support and/or participation in collecting this valuable information will help us prepare compelling recommendations for appropriate relief.

Be clear on the rules when using that computer

It's an electronic age. E-mails to grandma, faxes to the accountant, photos of the kids over the Internet to your sister. For most of us, these tasks are part of our daily life. Computers, faxes, palm pilots, laptops, e-mail, Internet, etc. All components of electronic communication that we take for granted. All components of electronic communication that we are given access to on- the-job-to do our jobs. The line between our personal lives and our professional ones can sometimes get blurred. It is the policies and procedures that our employers establish that are meant to keep that line clear.

CDF just recently established a **Computing Acceptable Use Policy** that establishes the rules, roles and responsibilities for individuals using, or managing users, of CDF information technology assets. In producing this policy CDF solicited and received input from the unions during the process and considered/included their comments in the final version. While you should read and be familiar with the entire policy (which can be found in the Information Technology Services Procedures Handbook 0900, Section 0910) we are including here a small portion to give you an idea what the policy covers.

"CDF employees may not use department computing resources to:

- Engage in personal attacks of any kind.
- Harass another person.
- Post or transmit false or defamatory information about a person or organization.
- Engage in activities for personal gain.
- Engage in activities for political campaigns or fund raising.

See, ***COMPUTER,*** *page 40*

***COMPUTER**: from page 39*

- Knowingly or willingly access, download, transmit, install or store discriminatory or offensive content. Refer to Personnel Handbook Section 1400, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO).
- Knowingly or willingly access, download, transmit, install or store confidential information inappropriately. For example, email should never be used to transmit an employee's social security number, nor should a home address or telephone number be posted to a bulletin board without the employee's permission.
- Knowingly or willingly access, download, transmit, install or store material that is not essential to job performance. Examples include unlicensed software, freeware or shareware, music (e.g., MP3) or real audio files, chain letters, jokes, games.
- Read, alter or delete any other person's computer files without specific authorization from that person or his/her supervisor.
- Knowingly or willingly access, download, transmit, install or store a computer virus, "Trojan horse," or other destructive program."

CDF Won't Let It Go To Waste

A new law that will impact the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and the rest of state government reinforces something everyone learned as a child: waste not, want not. AB 75 requires state government to reduce the materials it uses in the course of doing business, reuse items whenever possible, recycle everything else, and buy products made of recycled goods.

As of January 1, 2000, state government is required to do the same things that cities and counties have been doing for 10 years: divert half its waste from landfills and strengthen its buy-recycled programs. State government must cut the waste it generates by 25 percent by 2002, and by 50 percent by 2004.

CDF is already doing some of the things required by AB 75, but it is a big undertaking to get into full compliance. We certainly want to recycle as much as possible, but it's more than that. There has to be a different way of thinking. First, we have to look at what we call waste as a resource. Second, we have to think about reduction as well as recycling, not using as much in the first place.

People think 'We'll just throw more stuff in recycling bins.' But just as we talk about energy efficiency, we need to talk about resource efficiency. For example, double-sided copying to save paper. It's something everybody knows they should do, but they don't always do it. That saves thousands and thousands of sheets of paper over a year's time. Another example would be doing things electronically instead of using paper.

WHY CUT WASTE?

Managing and conserving California's rich natural resources is what the California Resources Agency is all about. By reducing, reusing, recycling and buying recycled-content products, the average person - that's YOU! - helps diminish the need to extract materials from the earth. You cut pollution and energy as well.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Tip #1: Don't use it in the first place!

There are hidden costs to everything we use: energy consumed, resources extracted, pollution created, and of course, dollars spent. You can minimize each of these by using less whenever possible. Next time you need materials for your job, ask yourself: Is there a way to use less or none at all? The following tips can help.

SAVE PAPER

- Write, copy, and print on both sides of paper whenever possible.
- Review, edit and share draft documents on-screen.
- Adjust margins and fonts to reduce the number of pages in your documents.
- Avoid fax cover sheets - attach fax transmission stickers to the first page, or buy a rubber stamp to allow printing transmittal information directly on the top sheet.
- Circulate documents via e-mail, or make them available through an Intranet site or a web site.
- Two pages of a book or periodical can often be copied onto one standard sheet.
- Use reusable inter- and intra-office envelopes.
- Reuse old paper for notepads. It can be cut to custom sizes and simply bound with a staple.
- Review mailings periodically to eliminate duplicate and incorrect addresses.

REDUCE AND REUSE SUPPLIES

- Refurbish and buy refurbished office equipment.
- Reuse and refill toner cartridges.

*See **RECYCLE**, page 41*

RECYCLE: from page 40

- Buy products that are reusable, returnable or refillable.
- Donate old books, journals, magazines and other publications to local libraries, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and other organizations.
- Reuse file folders by turning them inside out; reuse hanging file folders by inserting new labels into the plastic tabs.
- Reuse envelopes by placing a label over the old address.

CUT FOOD AND PACKAGING WASTE

- Use reusable bags, storage containers and towels.
- Often a bag isn't needed for take-out food - say, "Thanks - I don't need a bag."
- Bring a reusable mug instead of disposable cups.
- Use reusable plates and flatware at the office instead of paper plates.
- Did you grab too many packages of ketchup or mustard? They won't spoil, so save them for next time you have a meal on the go. Same goes for napkins and other conveniences.
- Promptly refrigerate leftovers you bring home so they don't end up as waste.

REDUCE AT CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

- Use e-mail to announce meetings and conferences, and post agendas and program information instead of handing out individual flyers.
- Make information provided by speakers available online rather than distributing handouts to all participants.
- Use collection boxes for name-tag holders and save the plastic badges for the next event.

For more information about CDF's recycling efforts contact Karen Harper in the CDF Business Services Office at (916) 324-3375.

New look for CDF HQ

In a ribbon cutting ceremony at CDF Sacramento Headquarters on March 6, 2001, CDF Director Andrea Tuttle officially dedicated a new educational exhibit along the 15th floor hallway. The project originated with previous CDF Director Richard Wilson, and is the result of several years of planning. The hallway is now lined with 33 wainscoting panels, milled and installed by the Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp, representing trees that grow in California, most of which are native to the state. Above the panels hang six photos reproduced from hand-colored lantern slides that were donated to CDF by the UC Berkeley Foresters Alumni, and a series of educational posters detailing the characteristics of many trees. CDF employees and visitors will enjoy this permanent educational exhibit for years to come.

CDF Director Andrea Tuttle presents a certificate of appreciation to Mendocino Unit Chief Dan Matson for the efforts of the Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp in making the exhibit a reality. On the far left is Fire Captain Herb Brockett, and standing to the right is Assistant Chief Ted Enberg, both of Chamberlain Creek. Fire Captain Greg Heraty, also of Chamberlain Creek, could not attend the ceremony, but played a major role in the hallway project.

COMPUTER MONITORS

Choose the smallest monitor that will meet your needs. The bigger the monitor, the more energy it uses. For example, a 17-inch monitor consumes 35 percent more electricity than a 14-inch monitor.

Personnel Transactions and Kudos

The CDF Personnel Transactions and Kudos sections, formerly included within each issue of the Communique', are now posted separately on the CDF web site and on the CDF Intranet.

Personnel Transactions cover all appointments, promotions, separations, retirements, transfers, and deaths reported to the CDF Communique' staff.

Kudos include recognition by the public, private industry, cooperating agencies, and CDF executive staff given to CDFers for outstanding efforts and the professional manner in which CDF personnel always carry out the mission of this department.

Find both sections at:

www.fire.ca.gov

under the CDF Newsletter option.

Camp Smokey

by Carlos Garcia, student assistant, Public Education and Public Affairs Offices

Corndogs, the Ferris wheel and hot Sacramento days. These are the things that typically come to mind when thinking of the California State Fair, but in the last two years one thing has been added to this list: Camp Smokey. For 18 days in August, kids and adults alike found themselves drawn once again to the inter-agency fire prevention display that focuses on teaching fire safety awareness.

Those who made the trek to Camp Smokey found a display that was improved and expanded. New buildings and new displays made the experience enlightening for almost 15,000 kids this year (not including their parents). "We were very happy with the number of visitors to the display this year," said Deputy Incident Commander Jean LaClair. "We had almost 3,000 more visitors this year than we did last year," said Jean.

Among the new attractions at Camp Smokey was the "little red school house" which housed computers equipped with the "Smokey and Me" Interactive CD-ROM. One of the favorite activities for the kids on the CD-ROM was "Smokey Bingo" which helped teach them to distinguish good uses of fire from bad uses. Also in the schoolhouse was a big screen TV that played videos such as "Get Out and Stay Alive," and the CDF fire resistant landscaping and "Fire Safe Inside and Out" videos. Parents often watched these informative videos while their children busily worked on the computers.

Onlookers could see that the kids were enjoying themselves as they visited each station, and at every stop the kids learned something about fire prevention, awareness and safety. "The safety messages we shared with them will very likely stick in their memories and change their understanding about the dangers of fire" said CDF Project Learning Tree Coordinator Kay Antunez.

Camp Smokey represents a wonderful opportunity to teach fire safety to the public. Yet, none of the success at the fair would have been possible had it not been for the long, hard work of CDF employees as well as 15 other agencies that were involved in the project. Planning and construction was happening long before the sound of the turnstiles or the smell of food filled the air.

Two regular fixtures at Cal Expo in the months before the fair were Incident Commander Pete Marquez and Deputy IC Jean LaClair. "Pete gave up his first few months of retirement to work on the display. He spent many days painting and was often covered in paint by the end of the day" said Jean. In fact, as a joke, Jean sent the paint-splattered coveralls that Pete had worn at Camp Smokey to his retirement party in Fresno as evidence of his long hours of work. "We could not have been so successful had it not been for the dedication that Pete Marquez brought to the project," said Jean.

Indeed, many CDFers need to be credited for their hard work at the fair. "I cannot stress enough the wonderful job that all the fire prevention specialists did to make the fair run smoothly," said Jean LaClair. "We had many of the same FPSs from last year, so that goes to show their dedication to teaching children fire safety."

"There are so many people who are responsible for our success and need to be thanked," said Jean. People like Jerry Letsinger and Romy Perea from the Administrative Mapping and Graphics Program at the Deuel Vocational Institute for their help in providing the passports and bandanas for the kids. They also constructed a beautiful sign displaying the logos of the agencies involved with Camp Smokey.

Speaking of people who are responsible for Camp Smokey's success, Jean LaClair has worked on the project longer than anyone has, and much of the display can be credited to her.

When asked about the 15,000 children who visited Camp Smokey, Jean said, "The children have taught us as much as we have taught them. By working with the kids and their parents, we get an idea of what the kids know, and also what they still need to know. Many parents are surprised that their kids don't know

See ***SMOKEY****, page 43*

***SMOKEY**: from page 42*

what their address is or how to give that information to an operator in an emergency. We are here to prepare kids for those situations, and if we can give them the knowledge to help them react in an emergency, then we have done our job."

Looking back on this wonderful event, Jean's words provide explanation for why Camp Smokey has become an annual event. The display is highly regarded by CDFers, and is a favorite among fairgoers. Needless to say, Camp Smokey will remain a valuable tool for fire safety education for years to come.

Smokey's Creator

Rudolph Wendelin (1910 – 2000)

Smokey Bear has been spreading the news about fire prevention for 55 years. Just say the word "Smokey" and the image of a bright eyed bear dressed in firefighter dungarees and wearing a ranger's hat comes to mind. Smokey Bear fascinates young and old alike. Children can hardly sit still as he enters the classroom to teach them about fire prevention and safety. They follow him around at fairs, hoping to shake his hand or get a hug. Even the older crowd can't help but say hello and wave as he passes by in parades. Many people are avid collectors of Smokey Bear memorabilia. His picture can be found on posters, coloring books, pins, bumper stickers, air fresheners, clocks, coffee mugs, shirts, and a lot more. His image is one that has overcome the force of time to become a legend.

And that, in large part, is due to Smokey's guardian and caretaker for 55 years, Rudolph Wendelin. Wendelin started working for the United States Forest Service in 1933 and retired in 1973. In 1945 he helped design the Smokey Bear image we know today and was assigned as Smokey's principal graphic caretaker. Throughout his career he received several awards for his work developing campaigns for fire prevention, preparing school materials, and designing posters. He continued his work in the Smokey Bear Program even after his retirement, designing artwork for licenses, Smokey Bear calendars, and United States Post Office commemorative stamps.

Sadly, Rudolph Wendelin passed away in his sleep in Arlington, Virginia, in August of this year. He was 90 years old. His children and wife Carol survive him. Rudolph Wendelin dedicated over five decades to the Smokey Bear Program. His devotion will ensure Smokey's image lives on for many generations to come.

Governor Proclaims May 13 - May 19, 2001

Wildfire Awareness Week

Protect yourself and your community:

* **Create a "defensible space" by removing all flammable vegetation at least 30 feet from all structures. Consider replacing the vegetation with fire resistive plants.**
* **On steep slopes, remove flammable vegetation out to 100 feet or more.**
* **Enclose the underside of balconies and above ground decks with fire resistive materials.**
* **Remove dead branches overhanging your roof.**
* **Clean all dead leaves and needles from your roof and gutters.**
* **Stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from all structures and clear away flammable vegetation within 10 feet of woodpiles.**

Contact your local CDF office or fire department for more information about making your home and community fire safe.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
Communique'
P.O. Box 944246, Room 1506-17
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

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CDF crews appreciated

When Montana Governor Marc Racicot (in jeans) visited this staging area, he expressed his deepest, heartfelt thanks that the folks from the great state of California would come all the way out to Missoula with 30 of the finest fire engines he had ever seen.

The 120 CDFers who had arrived with those engines three weeks earlier were preparing to return to California that same day. When their plane arrived at the Sacramento International Airport, CDF Director Tuttle, and the media, were there waiting to welcome them.

On the right, Fire Captain Pete Scully, situation status chief on Incident Command Team #10, talks about his out-of-state experience with Sacramento televison station, KXTV.

COMMUNIQUE'

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